

2. GLOSSARY

‡- This symbol in the General Plan indicates that a goal, policy, map, or sentence meets a State requirement for General Plans under Arizona Revised Statutes 9-461.05 (NEW)

A

Abatement (Noise) - The method of reducing the degree and intensity of noise. For Scottsdale Airport, noise abatement is addressed through a series of recommended procedures for flight operations and voluntary pilot compliance. Scottsdale operates in compliance with FAA standards for noise awareness and mitigation. (NEW)

Acre - A measure of land containing 43,560 square feet.

Active Recreation - Leisure activities that use organized play areas including, playing fields, swimming pools, and basketball courts.

Activity Areas - Areas where development is concentrated, but to a lesser degree than Growth Areas.

Adaptive Reuse - Developing a new use for an older building or for a building originally designed for a special or specific purpose.

Aesthetic - Elements in the natural or created environment (including artistic elements) that are pleasing to the eye. The desirable appearance of place.

Affordability, Affordable (Housing) - Housing that can be rented or purchased by a household with entry-level or “workforce” income, or spending no more than 30% of annual household income on housing expenses.

Aging-in-Place - The idea that people will remain in the community through all life stages, either in their family homes, in homes to which they have moved in middle or later life, or in a supported accommodation of some type, such as an assisted-living facility. (NEW)

Aggregate(s) - Cinder, crushed rock or stone, decomposed granite, gravel, pumice, pumicite, and sand, which are typically mined from riverbeds and drainage areas. (NEW)

Airport Influence Area - An area surrounding the Scottsdale Airport, as determined in the Airport Part 150 Noise Compatibility Study, to which the Part 150’s Land Use Management Element applies. (NEW)

Airport Part 150 Noise Compatibility Program (Part 150) - A voluntary noise compatibility study established by the FAA, which develops and recommends actions that an airport, municipalities, airlines, and the FAA could take to help reduce aircraft noise. (NEW)

Alley - A narrow service way with public access but not intended for general traffic circulation. Alleys are typically located along rear property lines, and are often used for utility access, garbage or trash pick-up, and maintenance. (NEW)

Alternative Energy or Fuel - Energy sources that do not rely on fossil fuels, such as, sunlight and wind.

Amenity - A natural or created feature that enhances the aesthetic quality, living environment, visual appeal, or makes a particular property, place, or area more attractive.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

- 1990 Federal legislation specifying provisions for design or redesign of buildings, parking, and outdoor areas to remove barriers for persons with disabilities and guaranteeing equal access opportunity to public accommodations, transportation, and government services.

Annexation - The incorporation of land area into an existing community with a resulting change in the boundaries of that community. Annexation may include newly incorporated land from county lands or land transferred from one municipality to another.

Assisted-Living Facility - A health care facility, other than a hospital or in-patient nursing care facility, that provides residential units, supervisory care services, personal care services, directed care services, or health-related services for persons who do not need inpatient nursing care. Services in these facilities may include help with daily life activities, such as dressing and bathing. (NEW)

Archaeological Resource - Any material remains of past life that are at least fifty years old and of historic or pre-historic significance.

Archaeological Site - A concentration of archaeological resources in a specific location.

Architectural Style - A classification system for building design primarily organized and defined chronologically based on the occurrence or presence of a defining feature, a reflection of changing trends, and emergence of new ideas, technology, or materials that make new styles possible. Some examples of styles familiar to Scottsdale include mid-century modern, ranch style, Spanish colonial, and mission revival. (NEW)

Arterial Street - A road with partial control of access, with some at-grade intersections, intended to move high volumes of traffic over longer distances and at higher speeds than secondary roads. (See also: Major Street)

Assemblage; Land, Property, or Parcel - The merging of separate, adjacent parcels under one ownership to create larger-scale developments. This technique is sometimes used to prevent decline and/or repurpose underused properties as a part of revitalization or redevelopment efforts. (See also: Neighborhood Assemblage). (NEW)

Assured Water Supply - A program operated by the Arizona Department of Water Resources designed to sustain the State's economic health by preserving groundwater resources and promoting long-term water supply planning. Before recording plats or selling parcels, developers must prove that all State assured water supply criteria have been met. (NEW)

B

Bicycle Lane - A section of a road that is marked for exclusive bicycle use.

Bike Route - May include shared streets, bike lanes, or shared-use paths, in any combination for bicycle circulation. (NEW)

Bikeway - A corridor designated for bicyclists that is not part of a vehicular road or bike route, such as bicycle paths.

Biodiversity - The variety of plant and animal life in a particular habitat or in the world as a whole. (NEW)

Blight - The visible and physical decline of a property or neighborhood due to any of the following: defective/inadequate street layout; faulty lot layout; unsanitary/unsafe conditions; deterioration of site/infrastructure; tax delinquency exceeding fair value of land; defective title conditions; improper/obsolete platting; and/or conditions that endanger life or property. (NEW)

Boulder - Exposed bedrock or bedrock cluster produced by weathering.

Buffer - An area of land separating two distinct land uses that acts to soften or prevent the negative effects of one land use on the other. Often the buffered area is open space, landscaped areas, fences, walls, berms, or any combination of these things. A buffer may also be a transitional land use designation between two other land uses, for example, a suburban land use that buffers a rural land use from a commercial land use.

Buffered Roadway - A road that has been designated in the General Plan to have a buffered setback (of a lesser extent than a Scenic Corridor) to reduce impacts a major street may have on neighboring parcels and to provide a unique image and visual aesthetic for certain streets. (NEW)

Building Envelope - The outer shell of a building, typically the roof, above-grade walls, and below-grade walls. Also called building enclosure.

Building Height - Typically, the vertical distance from the lowest point of the structure to the highest point of the roof. Depending on the specific zoning district or overlay, building height may be measured in different ways. (NEW)

Build-out - The point when land eligible for development under the General Plan has been developed to its maximum allowed level. Build-out does not preclude revitalization, infill, or redevelopment efforts.

Built Environment - Human-made elements including, buildings, structures, roads, canals, paths, and trails, that together create the physical character of an area or community.

Business Attraction - City programs aimed at attracting new businesses or industries to the community. (NEW)

Business Retention - City programs aimed at supporting, keeping, and sustaining existing local businesses.

C

Capital Improvement - Any building or infrastructure project that will be owned by a governmental unit financed, purchased, or built with direct appropriations or backed with public bonds. A project may include construction, installation, project management, or supervision; project planning, engineering, or design; and the purchase of land or interests in land. Some common examples include, streets, public libraries, water and sewer lines, and park and recreation facilities.

Capital Improvements Plan or Program (CIP) - A plan for the purchase, installation, design, and construction of capital improvements that includes a prioritized listing of projects, their timing, phasing, and related costs.

Carpooling - Two to four persons commuting in a motor vehicle to or from a destination in a privately owned vehicle. (See Also: Trip Reduction)

Central Arizona Project (CAP) - The 336-mile long aqueduct system constructed to deliver water from the Colorado River into central and southern Arizona.

Central Business District (CBD) - A single, contiguous geographic area that may be designated by the City Council if it meets the following State requirements: 1) located within a slum or blighted area; and 2) geographically compact and no larger than five (5) percent of the total land area of the city, or 640 acres. The State allows the city to abate tax for government property improvements within the Central Business District for a limited period of time.

Character - Unique features, qualities, and attributes that identify a place. Urban design is concerned with the use of character to distinguish place or relate places to one another. (NEW)

Character Area Plan (CAP) - The second level of Scottsdale's three-level General Plan structure that guides more detailed planning, land use, and character for a defined sub-area of the city.

Character Type - A designation in the Character & Design Element that describes the general pattern, form, and intensity of development. See Character & Design Element for descriptions of each Character Type in Scottsdale. (NEW)

City Charter - The document that outlines the city government's structure, processes, powers, and limitations.

Citizen, Community, or Public Participation, Community Involvement, Public Outreach - An open process in which the rights of the community to be informed, be involved, comment, and receive response from city government are met through a wide range of methods and opportunities. (See also: Civil Dialogue)

City Council - A seven-member elected body of Scottsdale residents responsible for governing the city and making policy, legislative, and regulatory decisions about the provision of city services and resolution of civic issues.

CityShape 2020 - A public education and outreach process conducted between 1994 and 1996, which involved a comprehensive review and update of Scottsdale's General Plan as an expression of Scottsdale's Shared Vision. The process established the three-tiered General Plan structure and Six Guiding Principles for use in making decisions on planning-related issues.

Civil Dialogue - Discussion between parties to enhance understanding; advance the public's interests; further individual dignity; and improve society. Civil dialogue is generally robust, honest, frank, and constructive dialogue. It includes a willingness to explain respectfully the reasons behind one's opinions and to listen and understand the opposing side's reasons. Civil dialogue provides a safe environment for different points of view to be expressed and evaluated. (See also: Citizen or Public Participation) (NEW)

Clustering - Essentially any development approach that locates buildings in limited areas on a site and results in a more compact arrangement of buildings on a property. This allows the remaining land to be used for open space and creates larger blocks of connected open space instead of smaller, individual areas.

Cogeneration - Also called Combined Heat and Power (CHP), the simultaneous production of electricity and heat from a single fuel source, such as natural gas, biomass, coal, waste heat, or oil. Cogeneration provides onsite generation of electrical or mechanical power; waste-heat recovery for heating, cooling, or process applications; and seamless integration for a variety of technologies, applications, and fuel types. (NEW)

Collector Street - A secondary street used for local neighborhood traffic to exit or enter the neighborhood.

Community Center - A facility that provides public services for residents, including recreational and cultural services, and services for youth or seniors.

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) - Grant program administered by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Grants must primarily be used to help low-income households with emphasis on housing and public improvement projects.

Community Facilities District (CFD) - A special taxing district used for financing the installation, operations, and maintenance of public facilities through the sale of General Obligation and other government-backed bonds. CFDs are used by developers of both residential and commercial projects for costly infrastructure improvements and also used for community-initiated programs. The bonds associated with a CFD become the responsibility of the property owners who benefit from the infrastructure improvements.

Community Member or Citizen - A person who lives, works, or owns property in Scottsdale.

Community Park - Park located in a centralized area in relation to a group of neighborhoods or major parts of the city. Community parks accommodate large groups; generally feature a community center and lighted recreational amenities; are often located next to elementary, middle or high schools; and are accessed mainly by automobiles and bicycles. (NEW)

Community Policing - A public safety strategy that focuses on local law enforcement building ties and working closely with members of a community or neighborhood. Community policing promotes partnerships and neighborhood problem-solving techniques to proactively address the immediate conditions that cause crime, social disorder, and fear of crime. (NEW)

Community Rating System - The Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) system for recognizing and encouraging community floodplain management beyond the minimum National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) standards. (NEW)

Compact Development - Development designed to use less land than conventional development. (NEW)

Conservation - (1) The controlled use and systematic protection of a resource, including environmental or cultural resources; or (2) To use something sparingly so as not to exhaust supplies. (See also: Preserve, Preservation, and Conservation, Neighborhood) (NEW)

Conservation, Neighborhood - A process that seeks to maintain significant character-defining features of a neighborhood, such as lot size, lot coverage, building height, and streetscapes. (See also: Conservation and Historic Preservation) (NEW)

Context - The relationship between a location and its surrounding natural and/or built environment; the whole environment relevant to a particular building or place; the interrelated conditions in which something exists or occurs. (NEW)

Conveyance (Water) - The distribution of water using natural and constructed systems, such as pipelines, pumps, and canals. (NEW)

Continuous Open Space - A system of linked, interconnected open spaces, including trails, Vista Corridors, streetscapes, and canals. (NEW)

Corridor - A linear pattern of similar land uses (e.g. commercial or open space corridor); a major transportation route, including freeways, expressways, arterials, or transit lines; or any major utility route, such as transmission lines or canals. (See also: Vista Corridor, Scenic Corridor, and Wildlife Corridor)

Creative Placemaking - Strategically shaping the physical and social character of a neighborhood, area, city, or region around arts and cultural activities through public, private, not-for-profit, and community partnerships. (See also: Placemaking) (NEW)

Creative Workforce - Employees or workers with expertise or occupations involving a high level of creative thinking, including developing, designing, or creating new applications, ideas, relationships, systems or products, and artistic contributions. (NEW)

Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) - A multi-disciplinary approach to deterring criminal behavior through design of the built environment. (NEW)

Cultural Resource(s) - Any building site, district, structure, or object significant in history, architecture, archaeology, culture, or science. This can extend to include the community's heritage and way of life. (See also: Archaeological Resource and Historic Site or Resource) (NEW)

D

Density - Usually used to describe the number of housing units per acre of land in residential districts. Density is sometimes used interchangeably with intensity. Intensity is the relative measure of development impact, as defined by characteristics such as traffic generation, floor area ratio, and lot coverage, or the concentration of activity occurring on a site or in an area. (See also: Intensity)

Desert Scenic Roadway - A road designated in the General Plan to have an open space buffer (of a lesser extent than a Scenic Corridor or Buffered Roadway) to maintain and enhance open space along roads in Environmentally Sensitive Lands. (NEW)

Design Guidelines - Non-mandatory provisions that steer the design of buildings and are used by staff, the city's boards and commissions, and City Council for evaluating projects. Design guidelines are usually applied in a particular area or to a particular use to protect investment or establish a unifying look for an area. Typical guidelines might focus on building orientation, architectural details, and streetscape considerations.

Developed Open Space - Generally landscape areas, turf areas, parks, golf courses, and other outdoor recreational facilities intended for both passive and active recreation. Refer to the Land Use Element for the Developed Open Space Land Use Category definition and the Open Space Element for the primary open space type definitions. (NEW)

Developer - A property owner, partnership, company, or corporation which owns or has authorization to develop or redevelop a property.

Development - The physical extension or construction of land uses. Development includes subdivision of land; construction or alteration of structures, roads, utilities, and other facilities; installation of water and sewer systems; grading; deposit of refuse, debris, or fill; and clearing of vegetative cover.

Development Fee - One-time capital charges, typically to developers, to fund the construction of public facilities needed to accommodate new development. Arizona State law requires all municipal fee structures to be based on adopted Land Use Assumptions and Infrastructure Improvements Plan Reports, which describe existing infrastructure, available capacity, planning, and cost estimates for new infrastructure required to serve development. Sometimes called an Impact Fee. (NEW)

Development Project, Project - Any development resulting from the approval of a building permit, lot split, preliminary or final plat, rezoning application, grading permit, public or private infrastructure, variance requests, development review, master plans, native plant removal, relocation or re-vegetation, or use permit.

Development Regulations - Scottsdale's Zoning Ordinance, Land Division Ordinance, and other regulations, that regulate particular development factors, including the type of land use, densities, height and bulk, landscaping, parking requirements, some elements of design, and standards for street layout and design. (See also: Zoning)

Development Review - A process involving the review of all aspects of a proposed development, including the site plan, the relationship of development to the surrounding area, and carrying out character and design related goals and policies of the General Plan. The Scottsdale Development Review Board oversees the development review process.

Development Review Board - A decision-making citizen board, consisting of a City Council member, a Planning Commissioner, and five (5) appointed professional members, that oversees the development review process.

Development Site, Site - A specific area of a development project proposed for a zone, use, or density.

Distributed Generation - Using small sources of electrical power, such as solar, micro-turbines, fuel cells, or other generating devices, at designated sites to meet individual customer energy load. These sources (i.e. generators) are sized to match a specific load, such as a house, industry, or community. (NEW)

Downtown - In Scottsdale, the commercial, cultural, civic, and symbolic center of the community consisting of a vital mix of supporting land uses. Scottsdale's Downtown is about two (2) square miles located generally south of Chaparral Road, west of Miller Road, north of Earll Drive, and east of 68th Street.

Drainage - Surface water runoff or the removal of surface water or groundwater from land by drains, grading, or other means, which includes runoff controls to minimize erosion and sedimentation during and after construction or development. (See also: Stormwater, Stormwater Runoff)

Drought Management Plan - The City of Scottsdale Water Resources Department management program of responses to drought conditions. (NEW)

Drought - Three or more consecutive years of less-than-average rainfall. (NEW)

Dwelling - Any building, or part of a building, designed and used exclusively for residential purposes. (NEW)

Dwelling Unit (DU) - A house or apartment that is a separate and independent housekeeping unit, occupied or intended for occupancy by one household.

E

Early Notification - A procedure to allow neighborhood associations, business groups, and affected residents to review project applications before they are scheduled for public hearings.

Easement - The right to use property owned by another for designated purposes, such as access to another piece of property, conveyance of stormwater, or transmission of utilities.

Economic Sector - A specific industry or group of interconnected industries.

Ecosystem - Living and non-living elements that interact to form a complete environmental unit. (NEW)

Effluent - Wastewater, treated or untreated, that flows out of a treatment plant, sewer, or industrial outfall. (See also: Wastewater) (NEW)

Element (General Plan) - A piece of the General Plan focused on a specific topic, such as open space or land use. State law requires the General Plan to include seventeen (17) elements, and allows for other elements to be identified by the community. Scottsdale's General Plan includes twenty-two (22) elements organized into seven (7) chapters.

Employment Center, or Core - Generally, a relatively large area of the city dominated by office, high-technology, light industrial, and other job-generating land uses. Refer to the Land Use Element for the Employment Land Use Category definition.

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) - Federal agency charged with protecting the environment.

Endangered Species - A species of animal or plant with prospects for survival and reproduction in immediate jeopardy. (NEW)

Entry-Level Household - A person or family that can afford to purchase a home for the first time. (NEW)

Environmentally Sensitive Lands (ESL) - Land in Scottsdale with unique and sensitive natural features, including mountains and hills, large rock formations, native landscapes, archeological and historical sites, significant washes, and land with special hazards. (NEW)

Environmentally Sensitive Lands Ordinance (ESLO) - A set of zoning regulations originally adopted by the City of Scottsdale in 1991 (and subsequently revised) to guide future development in the desert and mountain areas of Scottsdale. The Ordinance includes standards to ensure that new construction will be compatible with the natural beauty of the area.

Equestrian - Relating to horses, horseback riding, or people who ride horses. (NEW)

F

Fair Housing - The right to choose housing free from unlawful discrimination. (NEW)

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) - A federal agency responsible for coordination of disaster preparedness, response and recovery efforts, as well as, the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and flood hazard mapping. (NEW)

Flood Control - Any structural or non-structural measures designed to divert or contain floodwater and prevent flooding.

Floor Area Ratio (FAR) - A measure of development intensity, typically described in the Zoning Ordinance, that is expressed by the ratio of gross building floor area to net lot area of a site.

Floodplain - The channel and the relatively flat area adjoining the channel of a natural stream or river that has been or may be covered by floodwater.

Floodplain(s), 100-year - Land predicted to flood during a 100-year storm, which has a 1% chance of occurring in any given year. (NEW)

Fossil Fuels - Buried, combustible geologic deposits of organic materials, formed from decayed plants and animals, that have been converted to crude oil, coal, natural gas, or heavy oils by exposure to heat and pressure in the earth's crust over millions of years. Fossil fuels are generally considered "non-renewable" energy sources. (NEW)

Freeway - Major road with controlled access devoted exclusively to traffic movement, mainly of a through or regional nature. Local examples include the Pima Freeway (SR 101) and the Red Mountain Freeway (SR 202).

Frontage - The part of a lot that touches a road, street, or watercourse. It is often described by a measure of distance or length in linear feet such as "60 feet of frontage."

G

Gateway - A point along a street where a motorist or pedestrian gains a sense of arrival into the city or a particular area, typically through signs, monuments, landscaping, change in development character, or a natural feature.

General Plan - A collection of goals and policies that guide decision-making about the evolution of the city. The General Plan provides a comprehensive, coordinated set of directions for the development of the city, including land use, transportation, economic conditions, environment, infrastructure, public facilities, and physical character.

General Plan Amendment - A formal City Council change to the text or maps of the General Plan. Per State Statute, a change to the General Plan is considered a Major Amendment if it is “a substantial alteration of the municipality’s land use mixture or balance as established in the Land Use Element.” All amendments must meet certain requirements in the Land Use Element.

Geologic Hazard - Any public safety hazard associated with geologic forces, including landslides, mudslides, rock slides, erosion, and sedimentation.

Grade Separation - Crossing facilities, including overpasses, underpasses, skywalks, or tunnels, that allow pedestrians and motor vehicles to cross a street at different elevations. (NEW)

Gray Water - Wastewater collected separately from sewage that may contain fats, oils, grease, hair, lint, soaps, cleansers, fabric softeners, and other chemicals. Gray water originates from a clothes washer, bathtub, shower or sink, but not from a kitchen sink, dishwasher, or toilet and may contain elevated levels of chlorides, sodium, borax, and sulfates. Gray water differs from “black water,” which may be contaminated by bacteria, viruses, and other pathogens, from toilets, kitchen sinks, and dishwashers. (NEW)

Green Building - The practice of increasing the efficiency of building resource use, including energy, water, and materials, while also reducing negative effects on human health and the environment during the building’s lifecycle through site layout, building design, construction, operation, maintenance, and removal. (NEW)

Green Building Program - The Green Building Program is a voluntary building initiative for the development community including homeowners and building users in Scottsdale that are interested in living, working, worshiping, socializing, and entertaining in environmentally compatible, healthy buildings. The program encourages environmentally responsible building techniques, materials, and processes.

Groundwater - Water under the earth’s surface, often confined to aquifers, capable of supplying wells and springs.

Growing Smarter Act - 1998 State legislation governing long-range planning activities in Arizona cities and towns focused on a community's General Plan. This legislation discusses the content, organization, amendment procedures, public involvement, notification requirements, 10-year update or re-adoption, and other procedural and material requirements.

Growing Smarter Plus ACT - 2000 State legislation that amended the original 1998 Growing Smarter Act. Growing Smarter Plus redefined major amendments to the General Plan and required that General Plan adoptions be ratified by a public vote after City Council approval.

Growth Areas - Areas of the community that best accommodate future growth allowing increased focus on creating or enhancing transportation systems and infrastructure coordinated with development activity.

H

Habitat - The physical location or type of environment in which an organism or biological population lives or occurs.

Hazardous Material or Waste - A substance that could be harmful to people, animals, plants, and the environment, including pesticides, herbicides, poisons, toxic metals and chemicals, liquefied natural gas, explosives, volatile chemicals, and nuclear fuels.

Heat Island - The phenomenon involving elevated temperatures in urban/suburban areas as compared with outlying rural/undeveloped surroundings. Heat islands are generally caused by reduced vegetation, solar heat absorption, material heat capacity, use of energy, and building spacing. (NEW)

High-Density - A relative term, usually used to describe development dominated by multi-family housing, or areas of more than eight (8) dwelling units to an acre of land.

Historic Preservation - Private or public identification and protection of physical resources in the built environment of local, State, or national significance. The term can also refer to the process of maintaining resources as they were originally designed and built and preventing more deterioration.

Historic Resource - Any prehistoric or historic district, site, building, structure, object, or landmark included in, or eligible for inclusion on, the National Register of Historic Places, the Arizona Register of Historic Places, or the Scottsdale Historic Register; including artifacts, records, and material remains related to such property or resource. Historic Resources include archaeological resources. (See also: Archaeological Resource and Cultural Resource)

Historic Register, Scottsdale - Refers to the official list of resources in the community that have been designated Historic Property (HP) overlay zoning district and have been placed on the Scottsdale Historic Register by City Council after a local public hearing process. The list of resources may include archaeological sites.

Homeowners' Association (HOA) - An organization initially established by developers of residential subdivisions. Control of the entity is transitioned to a board of home owners. An HOA is typically responsible for administration of the subdivision's codes, covenants and restrictions (CC&Rs), and other property controls for maintaining a safe and quality environment and design uniformity. Most neighborhoods built in Scottsdale after 1980 have HOAs. (NEW)

Household Hazardous Waste - Waste that is generated in the home that is toxic or hazardous to humans and the environment when discarded, including paint, motor oil, batteries, and household cleaning products.

Human-Scale - The proportional relationship of the physical environment to human dimensions in terms of bulk and massing of buildings or other features. An example of human-scale development is a multiple-story building with retail stores on the ground floor that provide visual interest at human-eye level using window displays and architectural features. (NEW)

Human Services - An integrated system of social services, resources, and opportunities to help people improve their lives, the lives of others, neighborhoods, and the total community. (NEW)

Identity of Place - The meaning and significance people individually or collectively assign to a place. Identity is influenced by physical aspects of a geographic location and its unique historic and cultural associations. Place identity has evolved as a planning concern in response to a loss of individuality and distinctiveness as represented by uniformity in design. (NEW)

Impact Fee - See Development Fee

Implementation - In the context of the General Plan, implementation is an action, procedure, program, or technique that carries out General Plan goals and policies. For example, the Parks and Recreation Master Plan implements the goals and policies of the Open Space and Recreation Elements.

Improvement - 1) a change or addition by which something is made better; or 2) something done or added to real property, such as installation of infrastructure or landscaping, that increases the property's value. (NEW)

Improvement District - A designated area of the city with specific boundaries that is assessed the costs of certain public improvements, including street paving, sidewalks, crosswalks, curbs, gutters, culverts, bridges, fire hydrants, sewers, power lines, water lines, and street lighting. (Refer to the Cost of Development Element for more information about improvement districts)

Industrial Pretreatment Program - The act of treating wastewater to remove any harmful pollutants before it enters publicly owned treatment works. (NEW)

Infill, Infill Development - Development of individual vacant lots or “leftover” vacant properties in areas already developed with access to services and infrastructure.

Infill Incentive District - An optional implementation tool allowed by the State of Arizona to encourage infill development in particular locations that meet statutory criteria. This tool recognizes that the strategic application of zoning district standards and regulations might inhibit infill, revitalization, and redevelopment and otherwise preclude the provision of public amenities and benefits. An Infill Incentive District is a regulatory mechanism and is different from general infill development. Refer to the Land Use Element for the Infill Incentive District Overlay Land Use Category definition. (See also: Infill) (NEW)

In-Lieu Fee - Cash payments that may be required of an owner or developer as a substitute for dedication of land or physical improvements.

Infrastructure - Public services and facilities, including sewage disposal systems, water supply systems, other utility systems, streets and roads, parks, and schools.

Intensity - The level or concentration of activity occurring on a site or in an area. Intensity is often used interchangeably with density. (See also: Floor Area Ratio and Density)

Invasive Species - A plant, animal, or microbial species introduced into an area accidentally or unknowingly that may adapt, thrive, and aggressively spread, stressing indigenous and balanced ecosystems. (NEW)

J

K

L

Land Subsidence - Sinking or downward settling of the earth’s surface, not restricted in rate, magnitude, or area involved. Subsidence may be caused by natural geologic processes, such as solution, compaction, or withdrawal of fluid lava from beneath a solid crust. Human activity such as subsurface mining or the pumping of oil or groundwater may also cause subsidence. (NEW)

Land Use Definitions - Descriptions, including generalized densities, of each land use category in the Land Use Element that correspond to the categories on the Future Land Use map.

(Future) Land Use Map - A map in the General Plan Land Use Element that illustrates the general, planned distribution of land uses and intensities. It visually discerns land use compatibility and spatial relationships, establishes the physical form of the community, and identifies urban design opportunities. A land use map serves as a guide in the preparation of zoning ordinances and zoning district maps.

Livability - The balance of elements in the physical environment that contribute to the physical, social, economic, political, and emotional well-being of residents.

Low-Density - A relative term, usually used to describe development dominated by large-lot, single-family housing, or areas of one dwelling unit to one or more acres. (NEW)

Low-Impact Infrastructure, Green Infrastructure - An approach to stormwater management that mimics the natural hydrology of a site and uses captured stormwater run-off. This contrasts with conventional methods that convey stormwater offsite as quickly as possible to regional drainage facilities. The low-impact model views stormwater as a resource, reduces stormwater runoff, uses natural systems for filtration, and helps protect ecologically sensitive areas within a development. (NEW)

M

Major Street - In the General Plan, an arterial street or freeway. Depending on context, such as in a Growth Area, major collector streets may be considered major streets.

Mass, Massing - The height, width, and depth of a building or structure.

Master-Planned Community - A designed grouping of various compatible land uses, such as housing, recreation, shopping centers, and industrial parks, within one contained development or subdivision. (NEW)

(Scottsdale) McDowell Sonoran Preserve - A permanently protected preserve of Sonoran Desert and mountains with the purpose of maintaining scenic views, protecting wildlife and desert plant habitat, and preserving archaeological and historical resources and sites, while providing public access for educational and passive outdoor recreational opportunities. Upon completion, Scottsdale's Preserve will consist of about one-third of the city's land mass. (NEW)

Mixed-Use - Generally, a development type in which complementary and integrated uses, such as office, retail, resorts, and residential, are combined in the same building (vertical mixed-use) or within separate buildings on the same site or nearby sites (horizontal mixed-use). Refer to the Land Use Element for the Mixed Use Neighborhoods Land Use Category definition.

Mode, Modal - The form or method of travel distinguished by vehicle type, operation, technology, and rights-of-way separation. (NEW)

Moderate or Medium-Density - A relative term, usually used to describe development dominated by a variety of single-family, two-family, or multi-family housing developments, or areas between more than one and eight dwelling units to an acre of land. (NEW)

Multi-Family Housing - 1) A building, or part of a building, designed for occupancy by three (3) or more families; or 2) A housing variety associated with high- and moderate-density development within Suburban, Urban, and Mixed-Use Neighborhood land uses. Multi-family housing may be owner or renter occupied. (NEW)

Multimodal - An approach to transportation that includes all users (i.e. pedestrians, bicyclists, transit vehicle, equestrians, and motorists) of all ages and abilities and aims to create comprehensive, integrated, and connected transportation network.

N

National Register of Historic Places - The Federal list of properties identified as worthy of preservation. Properties may be listed on the register or may be identified as being “eligible” or “potentially eligible.” Properties are usually listed in the National Register through nominations by the State Office of Historic Preservation (SHPO).

National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) - Authorized by the Clean Water Act, the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit program controls water pollution by regulating sources of pollution that discharge into waters of the United States. (NEW)

Native Plants - Plants indigenous to an area or from a similar climate and requiring little or no supplemental irrigation once established.

Natural Area Open Space (NAOS) - Areas of undisturbed or restored natural desert, with no man-made construction, and dedicated under the Environmentally Sensitive Lands Ordinance (ESLO). Natural Area Open Space is regulated by the Zoning Ordinance. (NEW)

Natural Open Space - Generally, an open space area that has largely maintained its natural environmental character, or has had its character restored with minimal man-made facilities. Natural open space may include structures for wildlife and plant habitat and passive recreation purposes. (Refer to the Land Use Element for the Natural Open Space Land Use Category definition) (NEW)

Natural Resource - A feature or phenomenon in nature that enhances the quality of human life, including land, water, air, vegetation, geology, animal habitat, and topography. (NEW)

Neighborhood - A part of the city defined by characteristics that may include distinct ethnic or economic characteristics, housing types, schools, vicinity of a notable feature or landmark. Boundaries may be defined by physical barriers, such as major highways or natural features. Neighborhoods are often self-defined by the residents, property owners, and tenants or by homeowner and/or business associations.

For the purposes of the General Plan, unless otherwise described, neighborhoods are not exclusively residential or made up of a single housing type (i.e. single family, residential, or mixed use). The term “neighborhood” in its general use includes supporting uses such as shopping, schools, and places of worship and employment.

Neighborhood Assemblage - The process in which the owners of several properties in a neighborhood seek a buyer for their collective properties, or when a developer interested in a neighborhood for redevelopment seeks to put all properties under contract (also called a “buyout”). Neighborhood assemblages most often occur where land values may be increasing, such as near transportation improvements or near new office or commercial developments. The city has a Neighborhood Assemblage Policy (Resolution 3157, May 15, 1989) to help guide assemblage. (See also: Assemblage; Land, Property or Parcel) (NEW)

Neighborhood Park - Park of roughly two (2) to ten (10) acres in size, intended to meet the recreation needs of people living or working within a one-half mile radius. Neighborhood parks provide primary recreation services and facilities; are easily accessible and available to local residents; serve a single neighborhood or several neighborhoods, depending on the location of the park; are preferably located with or next to elementary schools, neighborhood centers, or other gathering places; and are accessed mainly by pedestrians and bicycles.

Neighborhood Plan - The third level of Scottsdale planning. A neighborhood plan is a guide and framework for neighborhood decision-making. It includes broad statements about resident goals, preferences, and values for the neighborhood. It also contains recommendations for carrying out the goals and generally represents the consensus of the neighborhood.

Neighborhood Street, Local Street - A road that provides access to properties in a neighborhood. Not intended for through traffic or heavy traffic loads.

Net-Zero Energy - The practice of producing as much energy as is consumed by off-setting energy use through a combination of energy efficiency and renewable power. (NEW)

Noise - Any undesired audible sound, especially one that is loud or disagreeable.

Non-Residential Land Use - Any of a broad category of land use that does not contain housing, including commercial, industrial, public, and institutional uses. (NEW)

Non-Renewable Resource - Natural resources, such as fossil fuels and natural gas, that cannot be replaced once used.



Open Space - Any parcel or area of water or land that is essentially unimproved and devoted to an open space use for the purpose of (1) the preservation of natural resources; (2) the managed production of resources; (3) outdoor recreation; or (4) public health and safety.

Open Space, Common - Land within or related to a development that is designed and intended for the common use or enjoyment of the residents, and not individually owned or dedicated for public use.

Open Space, Useable - Open space, which because of its size, function, visibility, accessibility, and strategic location, is a community amenity or resource. (NEW)

Ordinance - A city-adopted law or regulation.

Overlay Land Use Category - A supplemental land use designation relating to the use or potential use of an area that differs or varies from the standards, requirements, and permitted uses associated with the base or underlying land use designation. (NEW)

Overlay Zoning District - A method used to apply supplemental zoning provisions to a specific area's underlying or base zoning. An overlay zone might restrict certain uses or allow higher densities than would be permitted in the same zone in other parts of the city. The Environmentally Sensitive Lands Ordinance district is an overlay zoning district.

P

Parcel - A legally defined lot, or contiguous group of lots, in single ownership or under single control, and considered a unit for purposes of development and open space calculation.

Park - A tract of land designated and used by the public for active and passive recreation.

Park-and-Ride - A parking lot designed for drivers to leave their cars and use mass transit facilities beginning, ending, or stopping at the park-and-ride facility.

Particulate Air Pollution - A mixture of large and fine solid particles and liquid droplets found in the air. (NEW)

Passive Recreation - Leisure activities that involve less energetic, individual, or non-organized (i.e. team) activities, such as walking, horseback riding, running, sitting, hiking, skateboarding, picnicking, card and board games, or simply enjoying the natural environment.

Path, Pathway - A paved, shared-use, pedestrian, equestrian, or cyclist route or system.

Pedestrian-Oriented - A form of development that makes the street environment inviting for pedestrians.

Placemaking - A multi-faceted approach to the planning, design, and management of public spaces that emphasizes a local community's assets, and creating public spaces that foster people's health and well-being and give a place an identity. (NEW)

Planning Agency - Per Ordinance 3956 (August 2011), the agency of the City of Scottsdale, consisting of the Department of Planning and the Department of Public Works, with the duty of administering the General Plan, as allowed per Arizona Revised Statutes 9-461.01. (NEW)

Planning Commission - Seven (7) member citizen commission responsible for reviewing and making recommendations to the City Council on proposals for development, the subdivision of land, amendments to zoning, land use studies, the annual Capital Improvement Program, the General Plan, and other development regulations.

Preserve, Preservation - To keep something protected from anything that would cause its quality or condition to change or deteriorate. (See also: (Scottsdale) McDowell Sonoran Preserve, Conservation, and Historic Preservation) (NEW)

Public Art - Sculpture, painting, murals, and other forms of artwork that are placed in public spaces or in public view to enrich and add visual interest to the built environment.

Public Hearing - A meeting of a board, commission, or City Council that has been announced and advertised in advance, is open to the public, and during which the public is given an opportunity to talk and participate.

Public Notification - The advertisement of a public hearing in a newspaper of general circulation, and through other media sources describing time, place, and nature of the public hearing and where the application and documents may be inspected.

Public/Private Partnership - A merging of public and private resources to achieve an end result or product that would be difficult to achieve through public or private activity alone.

Public Use - Any building or property that serves a public function including, schools, libraries, City Hall, post offices, police and fire stations, and recreational and cultural facilities.

Q

Quasi-Governmental, Quasi-Public - A private entity involved in the delivery of an essential governmental service or required government program. (NEW)

R

Rare Species - An organism, plant or animal, that is uncommon, scarce, or infrequently encountered. (NEW)

Recharge, Groundwater - The process of infiltration and percolation of rainwater, or treated wastewater, from land areas or streams through permeable soils into aquifers that provide underground storage.

Recommended Study Boundary (RSB) of the Scottsdale McDowell Sonoran Preserve - The Recommended Study Boundary (RSB) of the Scottsdale McDowell Sonoran Preserve correlates with the land area the city desires to ultimately acquire through the preservation program and is the geographic area for which the Scottsdale voters approved the use of tax proceeds to purchase and maintain land for the Scottsdale McDowell Sonoran Preserve.

Reclaimed Water - Former wastewater that is treated to remove solids and certain impurities to a level that is suitable for use in landscaping and water features, as determined by the Water Resources Department. (NEW)

Recreational Facility - A place designed and equipped for sports and leisure activities.

Recycled Water - The practice of using highly treated effluent water from a wastewater treatment plant for landscape irrigation and other non-drinking purposes.

Recycling - The process by which waste products are collected, separated, and reused or reduced to raw materials and transformed into new and often different products.

Redevelop, (Informal) Redevelopment - To change the existing development in an area or on a property, sometimes by demolishing existing building; increasing the overall floor area existing on a property; or both. Sometimes this also involves a change in land use. (See also: Infill) (NEW)

Redevelopment Authority, Formal Redevelopment - Refers to powers and tools granted by the State of Arizona to cities for the purpose of protecting the health, safety, and welfare of citizens by improvement of deteriorated urban conditions, acquiring property, and establishing open space and infrastructure. The use of these powers is limited to areas that are formally designated for redevelopment and under a redevelopment plan formally adopted by the City Council, which includes goals and policies that indicate the intent of plan. (NEW)

Rehabilitation, Rehabilitate - The upgrading of a building previously in a dilapidated or substandard condition.

Renewable Energy Source - Energy sources that do not rely on fossil fuels, including, sunlight and wind. (NEW)

Resident - A person of any age or capacity who lives or regularly stays in Scottsdale. Residents may be full-time, part-time, seasonal, or temporary. (NEW)

Resort - A building or group of buildings that include guest rooms and visitor accommodations and may include any of the following amenities: outdoor recreation (e.g. golf, horseback riding), low to moderate density residential developments, supporting commercial services (e.g. restaurants, gift shops) and institutional facilities, such as convention or meeting space. (Refer to the Land Use Element for the Resorts/Tourism Land Use Category definition) (NEW)

Revitalization - Bringing new life or vigor to an area, often through public and private investment.

Rezoning (Zoning District Map Amendment) - To change the zoning classification of particular lots or parcels of land.

Right(s)-of-Way - The strip of land over which certain transportation and/or other public facilities are built, including roads, sidewalks, and utility lines. A public right-of-way is typically dedicated or deeded to the public for public use and controlled by a public agency, such as the city.

Riparian Areas - Includes both wet and dry varieties. Wet riparian areas include temporary and permanent streams with naturally occurring plants. Wet riparian areas are an important and rare habitat in Scottsdale. Dry riparian areas include major desert washes and minor floodways with naturally occurring plants. (NEW)

Runway Protection Zone (RPZ) - A trapezoidal area at or beyond the airport runway end that should, where practicable, remain clear of all above-ground objects to enhance the safety and protection of people and property.

Rural, Rural Area - Generally, a less-developed area where the land is used primarily for low-density residential uses, limited low-intensity commercial development, and open space. (Refer to the Land Use Element for the Rural Neighborhoods Land Use Category definition) (NEW)

S

Safe-Yield - A groundwater management goal to achieve and maintain a long-term balance between the annual amounts of groundwater extracted and recharged in an area. (NEW)

Salinity - The amount of dissolved salt minerals in water, including calcium, magnesium, sodium, sulfate, and chlorides. Too much water salinity can negatively affect vegetation and reduce the life of household plumbing, fixtures, and appliances. (NEW)

Scale - The relationship of a particular project or development, in terms of size, height, bulk, intensity, and aesthetics, to its surroundings.

Scenic Corridor - A major road designated in the General Plan that provides a large open space buffer to minimize the visual intrusion of neighboring development and maximize the unique character of different areas of the city.

Scottsdale Visioning (Shared Vision) - 1990-1992 citizen-driven process that established Four Dominant Themes and 24 Vision-Tasks that define Scottsdale's character and future.

Sense of Place, Sense of Community - The characteristics of a location that make it readily recognizable as being unique and different from its surroundings and that provides a feeling of belonging to or being identified with that particular place. (See also: Identity)

Sensitive Design Principles - Program and documents aimed at strengthening the focus on design in the community, promoting coordination of the city's design-related efforts and resources, and guiding discussion of design-related issues.

Setback - Typically, the distance between a property line and a building or structure. Depending on the specific zoning district, setbacks may be measured in different ways.

Settling Pond - An area dedicated to the separation and storage of waste residue generated from the wastewater treatment process and stormwater runoff. (NEW)

Sewer - Any pipe or conduit used to collect and carry away sewage from the generating source to treatment plants.

Sign Controls - City regulations governing the location and design of signs.

Signage - Generally referring to public and private signs and their design attributes.

Signature Special Events - Annual events and event series staged in Scottsdale that generate significant economic activity, including major league baseball spring training, arts festivals, auto auctions (e.g. Barrett-Jackson, Russo and Steele), Culinary Festival, Native Trails, Rock and Roll Marathon, Arabian Horse Show, Parada del Sol Rodeo and Parade, and the Waste Management Phoenix Open. (NEW)

Single-Family - A house intended for occupancy by one family that is structurally independent from any other dwelling unit.

Shared-use Path - Paths that accommodate bicyclists and pedestrians. (NEW)

Smart Grid - Controls, computers, automation, and other technologies and equipment that work with the electrical grid (i.e. network of transmission lines, substations and transformers that delivers electricity) to respond quickly and digitally to changing electric demand. (NEW)

Solid Waste - General category that includes organic wastes, paper products, metals, glass, plastics, cloth, brick, rock, soil, leather, rubber, yard wastes, and wood. Commonly referred to as "trash" or "garbage."

Specialty Park - Park that provides specialized facilities and preserves significant, unique features of the community. Specialty parks generally serve the entire city or region; are located where necessary to capitalize or preserve an existing feature, facility or market area; and may need either a high-degree of access or limited access, depending on purpose. (NEW)

Specialty Retail - High-end commercial businesses selling products or unique merchandise of high-quality and price.

(NEW)

Stakeholder - A person who is involved with and/or affected by a course of action. (NEW)

Stepback - In the General Plan, an arrangement of building forms, shapes, and massing that causes the building design to “move away,” “step back,” or recede from a property line or neighboring development to provide an open area above the first or second level of the building. The Zoning Ordinance delineates specific stepback requirements for zoning districts. (NEW)

Streetscape - The combination of individual design elements that characterize the street frontages of the city. Some examples of these elements are landscaping, seating, lighting, and sidewalk design.

Stormwater, Stormwater Runoff - Water generated from rain, snowmelt, or drainage. Runoff is generated when precipitation flows over land or impenetrable surfaces (e.g. asphalt) and does not absorb into the ground. As runoff flows over the land, it accumulates debris, chemicals, sediment, and other pollutants that may adversely affect water quality, if untreated. (NEW)

Suburban, Suburban Area - Generally low- to moderate-density and intensity development patterns consisting of residential uses and supporting commercial and employment uses. (Refer to the Land Use Element for the Suburban Neighborhoods Land Use Category definition) (NEW)

Sustainability - For the purposes of the General Plan, sustainability is a condition of living that enables the present generation to enjoy social well-being, a vibrant economy, and a healthy environment, without compromising the ability of future generations to enjoy the same. (NEW)

T

Telecommuting - A trip reduction strategy and a work arrangement, where employees work at a location other than the primary work location, such as at home or in a subordinate office. (See also: Trip Reduction)

Themed Streetscape - A street in the General Plan that has, or is planned to have, streetscape design guidelines to provide a consistent, themed appearance along the street. (NEW)

Threatened Species - As protected by law, any species likely to become endangered within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant part of its range. (NEW)

Trails - A shared-use pedestrian, equestrian, and/or bicyclist route or system that is not paved.

Transit - Transportation system mainly for moving many people and made available to the public, usually through paying a fare. Typical vehicles used for transit include buses, rail cars, and other fixed guideway vehicles. (NEW)

Trip Reduction - Techniques aimed at reducing traffic congestion, vehicle trips, and miles traveled with the main goal of improving air quality. Strategies include carpooling, transit use, walking, biking, telecommuting, and compressed work schedules (such as a 4-day work week). (NEW)

Transition - 1) A gradual change from one development density or intensity to another, from one land use to another, or from a preserved area to a developed area; or 2) The placement of buildings and their forms, shapes, and massing that causes the building design to recede from the property line or neighboring development; provide open space and openings between buildings; and/or create compatible development between lower and higher intensities and densities.

U

Universal Design - An idea that all environments and products should be accessible and useable by all people, regardless of age, size, or ability. (NEW)

Urban, Urban Area - (1) relating to or characteristic of a city; or (2) Generally characterized by moderate- to high-density and intensity development, walkability, and available public services to adequately serve high intensity development. Residential uses in urban areas tend to consist of multi-family types. (Refer to the Land Use Element for the Urban Neighborhoods Land Use Category definition) (NEW)

V

View Corridor - A line of sight between an observer and an object or feature of visual significance or sensitivity. (NEW)

Viewsheds - The major segments of the natural terrain that are visible above the natural vegetation from designated scenic viewpoints.

Viewpoint - A position on a major street within Environmentally Sensitive Lands areas from which significant natural features can be viewed. (NEW)

Vision - A shared dream of the future characterized by long-term idealistic and aspirational thinking. The vision is the foundation for the development of goals, policies, and programs. Although a vision is not a binding goal, and may not be achievable in the lifetime of those participating in the drafting of the General Plan, it provides a picture of the community that the citizens desire.

Vista Corridor - A major open space corridor that follows major watercourses or other features and protects major wildlife habitat, protects distant views, separates land uses, and provides links for trails and paths.

Visually Significant Roadways - Visually Significant Roadways include Desert Scenic Roadways (in ESLO districts), Scenic Corridors, roads with buffered setbacks, roads with specific streetscape design themes, and roads with specific design guidelines. (NEW)

Visitor - Includes tourists and travelers from outside of the region experiencing, staying, or working in Scottsdale for a defined and limited time. Visitors may also include short-term daily visitors engaged in various day or nighttime activities. (NEW)

W

Wash - Usually a watercourse that flows during flood events or intermittently. Washes are important wildlife corridors and habitats. (See also: Water Body; Water Course)

Wastewater - The used water from homes, communities, and businesses. It includes both domestic sewage and industrial waste, and may contain metals, organic pollutants, sediment, bacteria, and viruses. (NEW)

Water Body - Any permanent or intermittent body of water, whether natural or artificial, including arroyos, washes, canals, riverbeds, and lakes. This excludes swimming and ornamental pools. (NEW)

Water Conservation - Any beneficial reduction in water loss, waste, and use, as well as, water management practices that improve the use of water resources to the benefit of people and/or the environment, including wastewater recycling or reuse, gray water recycling, rainwater harvesting, usage reductions, and a variety of other means.

Rainwater Harvesting - Using landscaping and modified infrastructure to direct surface water flow to areas of soil where water soaks in and is stored. (NEW)

Water Resources - In the General Plan, a Term used to collectively describe groundwater, wastewater, reclaimed water, surface water, precipitation, and water supply.

Watercourse - A lake, riverbed, arroyo, wash, or other channel over which water flows at least periodically. Watercourses include specifically designated areas where substantial flood damage may occur.

Watershed - The area of land where all of the water underneath it, or draining off it, goes to the same place. All areas of Scottsdale drain into the larger Salt River and Gila River watersheds. Some areas of the community drain to smaller tributaries, including the Verde River, the Indian Bend Wash, and other minor watersheds. (NEW)

Wayfinding - Enabling a person to find his or her way to a given destination through the use of landmarks, effective signage, and building design. (NEW)

Wildlife Corridor, Wildlife Movement Corridor, Migration Route - Linkages of vegetated habitat areas that allow or facilitate wildlife movement between larger habitats in an urban environment. (NEW)

Workforce Housing - A broad range of owner and renter residential housing, located in or near employment centers, and intended to appeal to essential workers in the community, including police officers, fire fighters, teachers, nurses and medical technicians, hospitality workers, and knowledge and office workers. (NEW)

X

Y

Z

Zoning / Zoning Ordinance - Land use regulations enacted by the city to create districts or zones that permit and identify special conditions within those zones. Land uses in each district are regulated according to type, density, height, lot size, placement, building bulk, and other development standards. The ordinances include procedures for changing the status of land use and physical development standards.

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