

APPENDIX D
URBAN AND SUBURBAN LAND COVER CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM

1.0 RESIDENTIAL

This land cover category includes residences, their surrounding land, community services (fire houses and ambulances), and minor (< 2 lanes) streets.

1.1 Residential \leq 1 house\acre

The land cover category of homes with > 1 acre per house including buildings (main house, garage, adjacent buildings, stables, guest house) and the surrounding property.

1.2 Residential > 1-3 RAC (residences\acre)

The land cover category of 1-3 residences\acre and included buildings (main house, garage, guest house) and the surrounding property.

1.3 Residential > 3-6 RAC (residences\acre)

The land cover category of 3-6 residences\acre and included buildings (main house, garage, guest house) and the surrounding property.

1.4 Residential > 6 RAC (residences\acre)

The land category of > 6 residences\acre and includes multiple unit housing. Apartment, townhomes, and condominium complexes consisted of residential buildings, recreational areas (pool, shuffle board court, patio), parking facilities, and offices.

2.0 COMMERCIAL/PUBLIC FACILITIES

2.1 Commercial

Commercial property consisted of buildings and parking facilities. On an aerial photograph this land cover category was distinct because of its usually large parking area and minimal vegetative cover.

2.2 Industrial

Industrial property was characterized by large buildings, extensive parking facilities, and minimal vegetative cover.

2.3 Regional Mall

A regional mall was defined as a retail shopping center > 50 acres that served the community. A regional mall included the buildings housing the shopping center as well as the surrounding parking facilities and access roads.

- 2.4 Mining
The mining land cover category consisted of the mine (typically a pit), mine tailings, roads, buildings and associated areas impacted by mining activities.

- 2.5 Institutional
Libraries, schools (public and private), public buildings consisted of buildings, playgrounds, garages, and parking facilities.
 - 2.51 Schools
Private and public schools consisted of buildings, playgrounds, and parking facilities.

 - 2.52 Public Buildings
Public buildings consisted of libraries, municipal buildings, municipal garages. This land cover category included buildings, garages, parking areas, and surrounding property.

 - 2.53 Military
Military property consisted of buildings, airfields, parking facilities, roadways, and immediately adjacent landscaped or vacant land.

- 2.6 Resorts
Resort property consisted of hotel, offices, recreational facilities (tennis courts, basketball court, swimming pool, playground), park facilities, and access road. Residential property and golf course associated with the resort was classified separately.

- 2.7 Office
Office property consisted of buildings, parking facilities, and landscaped areas.

- 2.8 Cemeteries
Cemetery property consisted of building, roads, parking facilities, graded land and landscaped vegetated areas.

- 2.9 Landfills
Landfills consisted of buildings, roads, parking facilities, and dumping areas.

3.0 RECREATION

3.1 Zoological Park

Zoological parks contained parking facilities, administrative offices, as well as the area housing the animal exhibits.

3.2 Golf Courses and Associated Recreation Areas

Characteristics of golf courses and associated recreation areas contained the golf course, driving range, club house, parking facilities, and recreation areas (tennis courts, swimming pool).

3.3 Park and Playground

The characteristics of parks and playgrounds varied by size of the community they served and was reflected in the park's area. There are 4 classifications of parks and playgrounds in Pima County and they reflect the use of the park as well as the park's area.

3.41 Neighborhood Park (<10 acres)

A park or playground designed for neighborhood use < 10 acres. A neighborhood park usually contained lawn, picnic areas, playgrounds, and parking facilities.

3.42 District Park (11-19 acres)

A park designed for district use was 11-49 acres. A district park usually contained lawn, picnic areas, playgrounds, bathrooms, ball fields (baseball, soccer, and or basketball), and parking facilities. A district park may contain a public swimming pool.

3.43 Regional Park (> 50 acres)

A park designed to accommodate people on a regional scale was > 50 acres. A regional park contained a variety of recreational amenities, including picnic areas, baseball field, swimming pool, garden, recreational fields (dog training, basketball, football), lawns, administration offices, and parking facilities

3.44 State/Federal Parks and Forests, and County Preserves

State and Federal Parks, National Forests, and the equivalent County preserves included large areas of natural open space, picnic areas, campgrounds, offices, roads, and visitors center.

4.0 WATERCOURSES AND PONDS

The watercourse and pond land cover category included major rivers, washes, and ponds. Each contained different feature in land cover, and therefore different potential habitat for wildlife species.

4.1 Major Rivers

Examples of rivers included within Pima County include the Santa Cruz, Tanque Verde, Canada del Oro, Pantano, and the Rillito. Rivers in an urban environment display various forms of human impact, such as bank stabilization for flood control. Bank stabilization was defined as a river or wash bank that had been secured from overflow or flooding by contoured soil or cement. Examples of rivers included the Santa Cruz, Pantano, Tanque Verde, Rillito, and Canada del Oro.

4.2 Wash/Riparian Area

Similar to urban rivers, washes and riparian areas in an urban environment display various forms of human impact, such as bank stabilization for flood control. Bank stabilization was defined as a wash or river bank that had been secured from overflow or flooding by contoured soil or cement.

4.3 Pond

The land cover category of pond included the body of water (pond) > 0.25 acres and the surrounding land that was directly influenced by the pond. The degree of influence (or zone) by the pond on adjacent land was determined by the type of plant species present, such as cottonwood (*Populus fremontii*), Arizona ash (*Fraxinus velutina*), Goodding's willow (*Salix gooddingii*), and Arizona sycamore (*Platanus wrightii*).

4.4 Central Arizona Project

The Central Arizona Project land cover category included the water channel, stabilized banks, and adjacent impacted land.

5.0 NATURAL OPEN SPACE

The natural open space land cover category included land that had maintained its natural integrity and did not show evidence of recent human impact (presence of land grading or buildings). Watercourses and ponds with natural vegetation were classified separately.

6.0 GRADED VACANT LAND

The graded vacant land cover category included land that showed evidence of recent human impacts (land grading, roadway, vacant buildings). Successional processes were underway on many of the land parcels in this category. Graded vacant land contained predominately first stage successional plant species, such as desert broom (*Baccharis sarothroides*), burro weed (*Haplopappus tenuisectus*), and exotic lovegrass species (*Eragrostis* spp.).

7.0 AGRICULTURAL LAND

7.1 Animals

This land cover category included commercial business comprised of horse, sheep, and/or cattle operations. The category included buildings (house, stables, barn, garage, equipment storage), horse riding areas, pastures, and natural open spaces used for grazing.

7.2 Crops

This land category included commercial property in the business of raising plant crops. The category included buildings (house, barn, storage areas, garage, equipment storage) agricultural crop fields, irrigation fields, access roads, and natural open space (land with native plants and no human disturbance -- typically between agricultural fields). This land cover category contained subcategories of currently used agricultural crop lands and abandoned agricultural crop lands.

7.3 Abandoned Agricultural Lands

This land cover category included property previously used for raising plant crops. The category included land cleared of vegetation and land in various stages of succession.

8.0 Major Transportation Facilities

Major transportation facilities included roadways > 4 lanes (or the equivalent), railways, and airports.

8.1 Roadways

Roadways in this category contained medians with plant materials and/or shoulder easements with plant materials. Roadways < 4 lanes were incorporated into the adjacent land cover category.

8.2 Railways

The railways included track and railway yards. The railway track incorporated the track and adjacent area cleared of vegetation. The railway yards contained a central rail switching area and included buildings, rail, parking facilities, and graded vacant land.

8.3 Airports

Airports included buildings, parking facilities, airplane hangers, runway, and associated turf area.