OLD TOWN SCOTTSDALE

Old Town streets and public spaces define Scottsdale's most walkable and recognizable setting. Here, tree and planting design are integral to comfort, character, and identity. This section supplements the citywide *Shade & Tree Plan* with objective standards and guidance tailored to Old Town's compact, pedestrian-oriented environment and its established design framework under the *Old Town Scottsdale Character Area Plan* and *Urban Design & Architectural Guidelines*. It identifies approaches and tree selections that strengthen downtown streetscapes while remaining consistent with broader, citywide shade goals.

Tree selection and placement within Old Town should enhance comfort and reinforce the district's unique visual rhythm. While the preferred species selection within this section emphasizes native and desert-adapted trees, they reflect a combination of existing prevalence, Major Street character, and opportunities to enhance shade effectiveness, water efficiency, and long-term resilience. Intentional placement and form contribute to walkability, shade performance, and a cohesive downtown identity.

Five Major Streets illustrate how strategic tree selection and placement can enhance Old Town comfort, consistency, and character - Scottsdale Road, Drinkwater Boulevard, Goldwater Boulevard, Indian School Road, and Camelback Road. Together, they frame the pedestrian environment, connect districts, and shape the visual experience for residents and visitors. The following guidance highlights preferred species and measurable design considerations, balancing shade performance, long-term maintenance, and compatibility with surrounding land uses.

Design and Implementation Framework

Although all Citywide Guidelines apply in Old Town, the accompanying Old Town Scottsdale Tree Guidelines, Major Streets Map (see page 102), and Street Tree Palette (see page 103) provide additional clear, measurable direction for Scottsdale's downtown area. The map identifies Scottsdale Road, Drinkwater Boulevard, Goldwater Boulevard, Indian School Road, and Camelback Road as Major Streets, each with corresponding Tree Palette and standards specifying Theme and Accent species, recommended spacing intervals, and preferred canopy forms designed to maintain rhythm, shade effectiveness, and visual consistency along each corridor. These standards ensure that new improvements, replacements, or infill plantings remain compatible with established canopy patterns and continue to advance citywide shade coverage objectives.

Shaded pedestrian path along Arizona Canal.

While the Street Tree Palette provides street-specific direction for Major Streets, the Old Town Scottsdale Tree Guidelines apply more broadly, offering principles for tree placement, health, and maintenance throughout the Old Town network of streets, plazas, and pedestrian connections. These guidelines establish the technical foundation for achieving consistent, high-performance shade and landscape outcomes across varying contexts.

Tree Selection & Location defines how trees should be placed to reinforce streetscape rhythm, complement adjacent architecture, and meet minimum spacing and setback standards. It introduces objective standards for consistency, visibility, and coordination with utilities.

Trees in Parking Areas extends these principles into surface parking areas, specifying shade coverage requirements to achieve 50% surface shade at maturity.

Together, these components create a complete decision-making framework, from planning and design to construction and long-term management. The map and street prescriptions illustrate where each tree type should occur, while the guidelines describe how those trees should be planted, sustained, and integrated with the surrounding built form. When used collectively, they ensure that tree selection, placement, and performance advance consistent, measurable outcomes for shade and identity across Scottsdale's downtown.
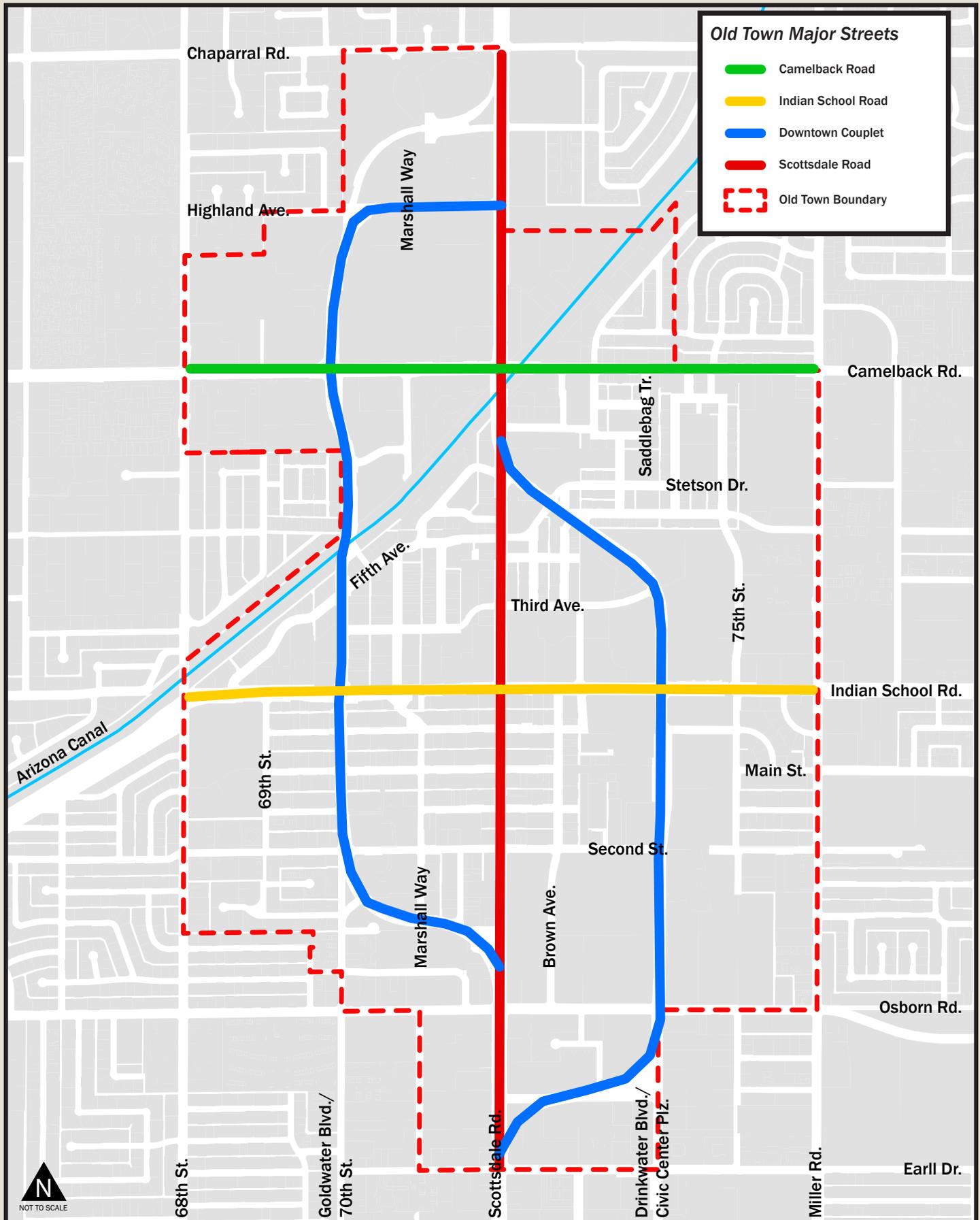
Legacy + Character

The Street Tree Palette balances shade performance with established landscape character. Sissoo remains the theme tree on Indian School Road because an existing mature canopy defines the corridor and continues to provide meaningful shade. Date Palms and Mexican Fan Palms are included as accent trees in select segments where they are strongly associated with Old Town's resort-style and historic identity. Where these species provide limited shade or present maintenance considerations, they should be used strategically and paired with higher-performing shade trees to maintain corridor shade objectives.

TREE SELECTION & LOCATION

Ensure tree placement provides measurable pedestrian shade, visual continuity, and compatibility with adjacent development.

OT 1 **Trees should be located within rights-of-way, open space, and landscape areas to provide pedestrian shade, reinforce designated street theme palettes, and establish a continuous streetscape rhythm through species selection, canopy form, and spacing.**

OT 1.1   Old Town Scottsdale Major Streets should incorporate designated Theme and Accent trees per adopted palette and spacing (see pages 102 - 103).

OT 1.1.1   Theme tree spacing may only be adjusted for driveways, utilities, or visibility triangles.

OT 1.1.2   Accent trees may be located near entries, intersections, or courtyards to create visual focus within the rhythm of theme trees.

OT 1.2   Old Town Scottsdale streets where no adopted palette exists, should incorporate tree species that match the prevailing species present along the same street frontage.

OT 1.2.1   Tree spacing should match mature canopy width, unless constrained by driveways, utilities, or visibility triangles.

OT 1.3   Streetscape design should respond to roadway function and adjacent land-use context while maintaining consistent shade rhythm.

OT 1.4   Taller accent trees may be used to reduce perceived street width and soften adjacent building massing.

OT 1.5   Open space areas greater than 2,500 square feet should include trees at a rate of one tree per 500 square feet of landscape area.

OT 1.6   Trees in open spaces should be placed in linear, geometric, or clustered groupings to define pedestrian linkages and gathering areas.

OT 1.7   Plantings of three or more trees of a like species should be grouped in odd numbers and used to define activity areas and provide visual cohesion.

OT 1.8   Avoid placing fruiting species or trees prone to heavy bird nesting adjacent to pedestrian areas.

Old Town Scottsdale Major Streets

Old Town Major Streets

- ▬▬▬ Camelback Road
- ▬▬▬ Indian School Road
- ▬▬▬ Downtown Couplet
- ▬▬▬ Scottsdale Road
- ▢▢▢ Old Town Boundary

Chaparral Rd.

Marshall Way

Highland Ave.

Camelback Rd.

Saddlebag Tr.

Stetson Dr.

Fifth Ave.

Third Ave.

75th St.

Indian School Rd.

69th St.

Main St.

Second St.

Brown Ave.

Marshall Way

Osborn Rd.

68th St.

Goldwater Blvd./ 70th St.

Scottsdale Rd.

Drinkwater Blvd./ Civic Center Plz.

Miller Rd.

Earll Dr.

Arizona Canal

N
NOT TO SCALE

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CAMELBACK ROAD

Camelback Road is divided into two design segments based on adjacent land uses and existing planting patterns. Segment 1 reflects larger-scale mixed-use and resort development. Segment 2 transitions to smaller-scale commercial, hotel, and service-residential uses, with a corresponding shift in the tree palette:

Cambelback Road Segment 1 – 68th Street to Saddlebag Trail
Theme Tree: Live Oak (25-30 ft spacing)
Accent Tree, Street Frontage: Date Palm (15-20 ft spacing)
Accent Tree, Medians: Sonoran Emerald Palo Verde (25-30 ft spacing)

Cambelback Road Segment 2– Saddlebag Trail to Miller Road
Theme Tree: Evergreen Elm (25-30 ft spacing)
Accent Tree, North-side Street Frontage: Texas Ebony (25-30 ft spacing)
Accent Tree, South-side Street Frontage: Date Palms (15-20 ft spacing)

INDIAN SCHOOL ROAD

Indian School Road is the primary east–west access into Old Town and connects to multiple Old Town Districts. This roadway is defined by wider setbacks with separated sidewalks, plazas, and coordinated landscaping, further supported by a consistent double-row street tree pattern:

Indian School Road
Theme Tree: Sissoo (30–35' spacing)
Accent Tree, street frontage: Pistache Red Push (located at intersections, 25–30' spacing)
Accent Tree, medians: Texas Ebony (25–30' spacing)

DOWNTOWN COUPLET

Drinkwater and Goldwater Boulevards form a north–south couplet east and west of Scottsdale Road, serving the majority of Old Town Districts. Each roadway has five travel lanes and a landscaped median, providing circulation around the Downtown Core and access to civic, parking, and mixed-use destinations. The Downtown Couplet is intended to function as a pair of civic boulevards:

Drinkwater Boulevard
Theme Tree: Pistache Red Push (25–30' spacing)
Accent Tree, street frontage: Fruitless Olive (15–20' spacing)
Accent Tree, intersections, driveway entrances, and plaza spaces: Date Palm (15–20' spacing)
Accent Trees, medians: Alternating Fruitless Olive (15–20' spacing) and Date Palm (15–20' spacing)

Goldwater Boulevard
Theme Tree: Ironwood (25–30' spacing)
Accent Tree, intersections and curb cuts north of Indian School Road: Date Palm (15–20' spacing)
Accent Tree, street frontage south of Indian School Road: Date Palm (15–20' spacing)
Accent Tree, medians: Ghost Gum (30–50' spacing)

SCOTTSDALE ROAD

Scottsdale Road is the central north–south spine through Old Town, serving the majority of Old Town Districts and providing access to a wide range of land uses and building scales. Through-traffic is redirected to the Downtown Couplet, allowing Scottsdale Road to function as a primary urban corridor. For design purposes, Scottsdale Road includes endcap, gateways:

Scottsdale Road Gateways – Chaparral Road to Camelback Road & 2nd Street to Earll Drive
Theme Tree: Live Oak (25–30' spacing)
Accent Trees, street frontage: Date Palm (15–20' spacing) and Sweet Acacia (20' spacing)
Accent Tree, medians: Sweet Acacia (20' spacing)

Scottsdale Road – Camelback Road to 2nd Street
Theme Tree: Live Oak (25–30' spacing)
Accent Tree, in clusters at street frontage: Mexican Fan Palm (5–10' spacing)
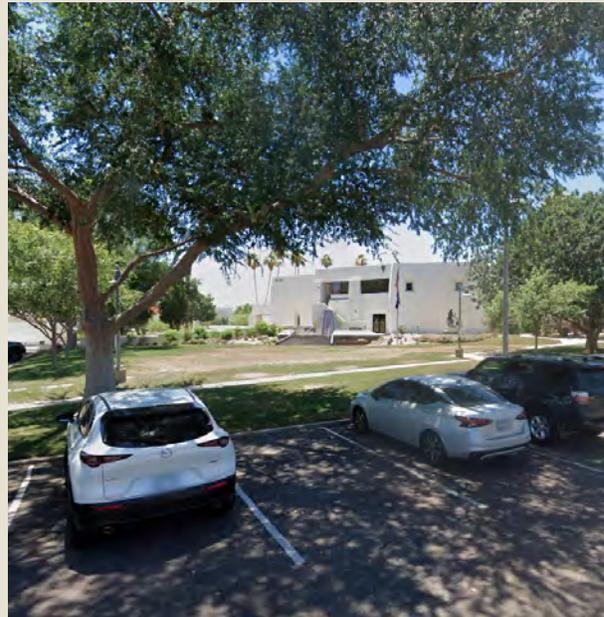Accent Tree, medians: Sweet Acacia (20' spacing)
Accent Tree, in clusters within medians: Mexican Fan Palm (5–10' spacing)

TREES IN PARKING AREAS

Reduce heat gain and improve comfort in surface parking areas through consistent canopy coverage.

OT 2 **Shade trees should be provided within surface parking lots to achieve consistent canopy coverage and complement other shade systems.**

OT 2.1 Trees should be set back a minimum of 2 feet from curbs or parking stall edges to allow vehicle door swing and bumper overhang.

OT 2.2 Tree species used in parking areas should be single trunk, maintain minimum clearance of 7 feet above parked vehicles, and have limited fruit or sap.

OT 2.3 Canopy trees should be provided in required landscape islands at intervals sufficient to achieve 50% surface shade coverage based on projected canopy spread at species maturity.

Consistent canopy coverage in parking areas can reduce heat gain.