

# Salt River Restoration Tempe Town Lake

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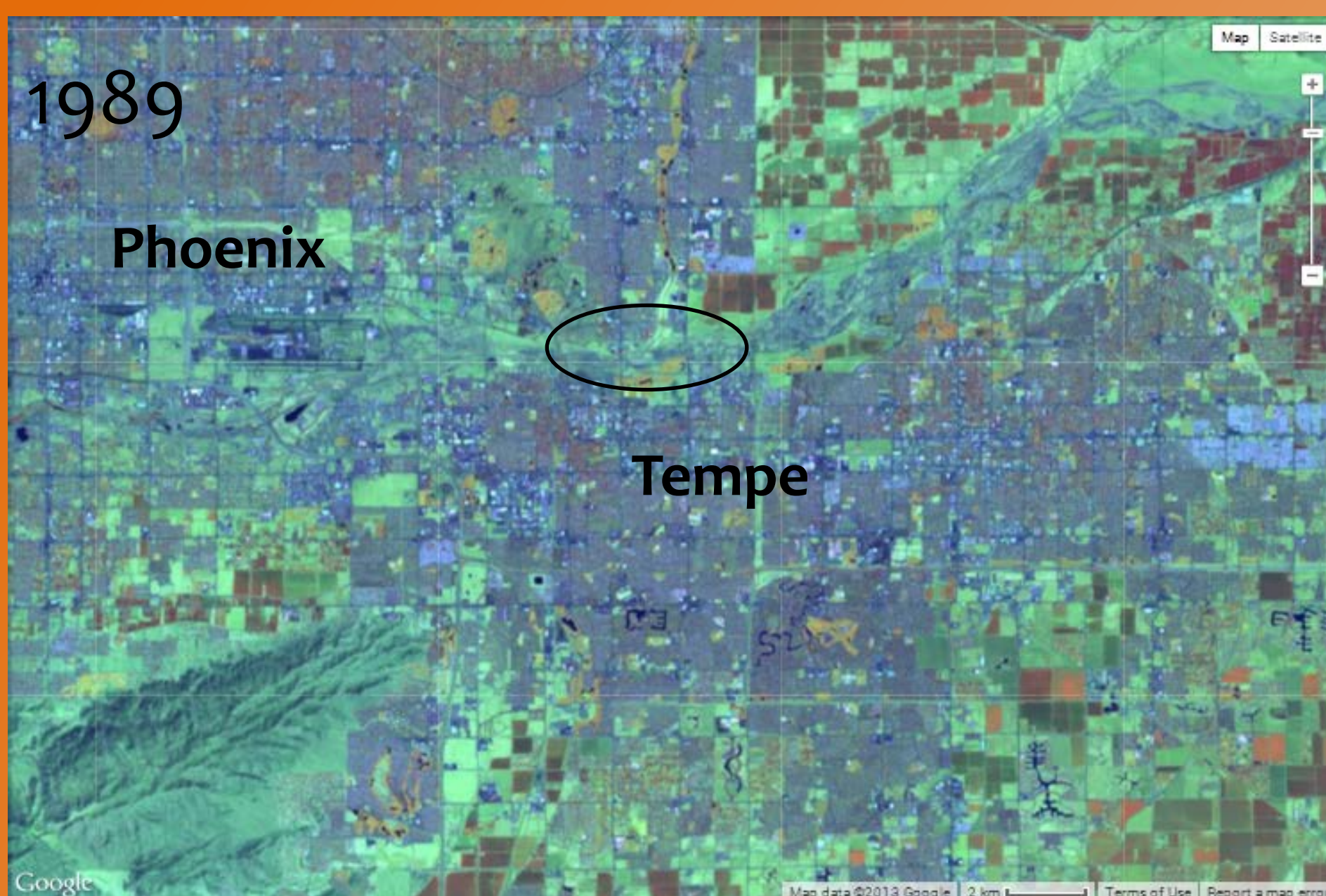


The  
Power of  
Perspective

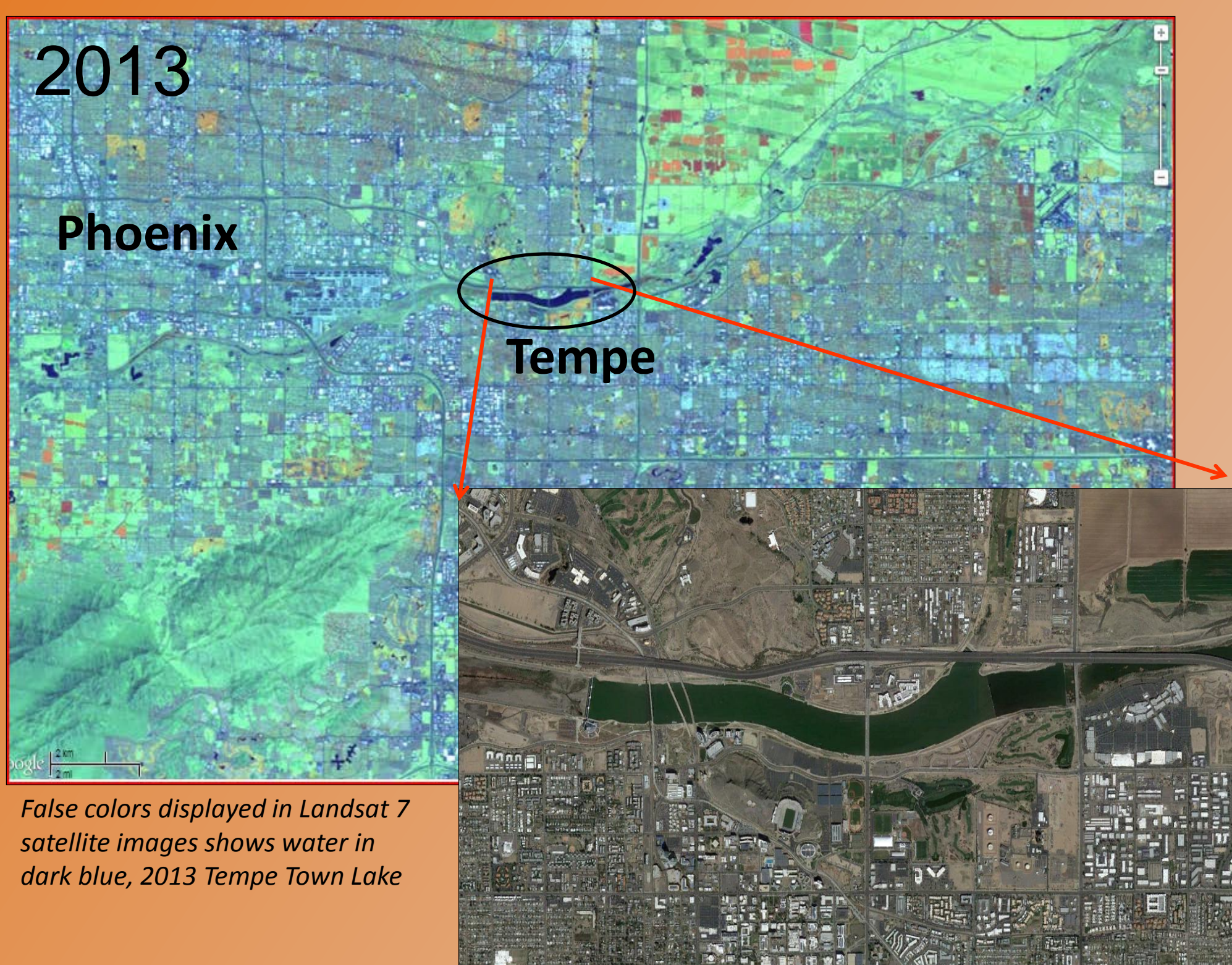
Artist's view of a U.S. Landsat satellite. Credits: NASA

The goal of the **Rio Salado Restoration Project** was to restore the Salt River, which once flowed year-round through Tempe and Phoenix, into a useful recreation area while re-establishing native wetland and riparian habitats.

Landsat imagery accessed courtesy of Google Earth Engine's Trusted Tester Program



False color Landsat 4 satellite imagery shows a dry river bed



False colors displayed in Landsat 7 satellite images shows water in dark blue, 2013 Tempe Town Lake

Google Earth aerial view of Tempe Town Lake



Tempe Beach Park – before Roosevelt Dam

## Why did the Salt River run dry?

- A series of dams were built by the Salt River Project (SRP) between 1903-1930 creating Roosevelt, Apache, Canyon, and Saguaro Lakes.
- SRP built irrigation canals and hydroelectric generating stations that provide water and power to much of the southern half of the Phoenix metropolitan area.
- Re-routing the Salt river was also meant to alleviate the 100 year floods that historically separated Phoenix from Tempe.

Today Tempe Town Lake provides a beautiful recreation area for the city, while providing restored riparian habitat.