

City of Scottsdale

Historic Preservation Program

Scottsdale established a state-of-the-art program for Historic Preservation in 1997. It might seem strange that a city incorporated in 1951 would need such a quality-of-life program; how much history could be in such a young, cutting edge, modern locale? In truth, Scottsdale history is incredibly rich. Numerous structures around the city pre-date post-WWII development, and archaeological sites found within the city limits date back centuries.

What is now known as Scottsdale, Arizona has been inhabited by nomadic hunters dating as far back as 6,000 B.C. Locals might be more familiar with the posthumously named Hohokam civilization; a people who inhabited the area beginning around year 1 A.D. During the centuries before the Europeans first explored the area in the 1500s several other tribes called this area home, each of whom left behind their own markings, artifacts, and constructions. Of the earliest inhabitants, perhaps the most notable contributions came from the Hohokam. Their innovative irrigation canal system served as the basis for the Valley's current water distribution system.

Preservation in Scottsdale begins with its habitat. Our 184 square mile segment in the Valley of the Sun features some of the most beautiful topography in the world. Scottsdale is encircled by vast mountain ranges and our Sonoran Desert is the only place on earth that is home to the transcendently beautiful saguaro cactus. Among the natural flora and fauna include dozens of cacti species, succulents, old growth forests, with a variety of exotic animals ranging from Gila monsters to roadrunners and even the ever-elusive mountain lion. It is extremely important to realize that preservation is not only essential for maintaining the Valley's incredible aesthetic characteristics but is necessary to preserve the ecosystem which allows for sustaining life and future development in this often unforgiving desert environment.