



CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE

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Date: Sept. 1, 2016
From: Brian K. Biesemeyer, Acting City Manager
Subject: Online comments collected in conjunction with April 20 and 21 DDC meetings

The attached file provides the comments received via an online survey form hosted in conjunction with Desert Discovery Center meetings April 20 and 21.

Several anomalies were noted related to this online survey which cause staff to question the validity of the bulk of the responses received via this form.

The anomalies are related to multiple similar inputs submitted within seconds of each other and suggest the possibility of an automated attempt to influence the survey.

In addition, a subsequent validation test of the 1,496 email addresses entered in the survey form revealed that 825 of the email addresses used were invalid.

Even with these unusual characteristics, staff has not been able to conclusively determine what exactly occurred with this online survey form, therefore all of the data collected via that method is provided in the attached document.

Desert Discovery Center Concept Survey Results

Executive Summary:

These are the results of the online Desert Discovery Center Survey that was conducted in conjunction with the April 20 & 21, 2016 public meetings that were held on the DDC project. The intent of the survey was to use the results to help guide the project team through the design process.

The first entry was received on April 21, 2016 and the last on May 16, 2016. During the three-week time period we received 1496 entries. In the fields where individual responses could be typed in we received between 185 – 213 individual entries. All duplicate responses are noted within the survey results.

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Question 1: On average, how often do you visit Scottsdale's McDowell Sonoran Preserve?

274	Daily
374	Weekly
323	Monthly
370	A few times per year
135	Never

Question 2: Where do you currently access the Preserve?

274	Gateway Trailhead
148	105 th Street
98	Granite Mountain Trailhead
97	Brown's Ranch Trailhead
90	Tom's Thumb Trailhead
87	104 th Street
87	124 th Street/Lost Dog Wash Trailhead
82	136 th Street
77	Sunrise Trailhead
76	Fraesfield Trailhead
75	Out of my neighborhood near Taliesin
75	Ringtale Trailhead
72	Reata Wash
72	Quartz Trailhead
67	Taliesin Golf Course
7	Various Trailheads
5	Bell Road
4	The DC Ranch Village parking lot
3	128 th Street
3	McDowell Mountain Ranch
3	Wingate Ranch
3	Pinnacle Peak
2	Dynamite & Alma School
2	Quartz Trail
2	I have accessed all of the trailheads
1	I have never been to the preserve
1	Silverleaf
1	Hawknest Stepmover
1	Westworld
1	Goosneck

Question 3: How far do you live from the proposed location of the DDC at the Gateway Trailhead (Thompson Peak Parkway & Bell Road)

- 472 Less than a mile
- 518 1-5 miles
- 183 5 – 10 miles
- 154 more than 10 miles
- 137 within Scottsdale
- 17 in another city

Question 4: What is the primary reason you usually visit the McDowell Sonoran Preserve?

- 575 Hike
- 307 Bike
- 310 Horseback ride
- 358 Other

DRAFT

Question 5: What issues would you like to see addressed as part the planning process for the Desert Discovery Center Concept?

1. A strong emphasis on the way the DDC might be phased in over 20-30 years.
2. Another robust interaction of citizens and factions regarding the location of a DDC.
3. I do not recall a full presentation of the cost of the preserve since so many volunteers maintain it. Conversation in the community is that these volunteers are older and no one is coming forward (next generation) to pick up the work load. So, if all volunteers leave, what impacts would the city have to underwrite. It is very hard for me to defend the DDC because there are so many reasons citizens are giving for not supporting it.

1. The community needs to be heard on whether they want a DDC located inside the McDowell Sonoran Preserve. The proposed location of the Desert Discovery Center is on 30 acres of the McDowell Sonoran Preserve at the Gateway area. A development of this magnitude would alter the pristine state of this area, contradicting the purpose of the preserve as stated in the McDowell Sonoran Preserve Ordinance. The city of Scottsdale and the DDCS must collect feedback from the community on the desirability of such a location. Per the January 11, 2016 Scottsdale city council meeting, Councilman Guy Phillips asked the DDCS "So I would like to know if the majority of the community, didn't like the DDC, and doesn't like the size and the scope and where you are putting it. Does that mean you will come back to us and say it's not feasible? It's not going to work?". Christine Kovach speaking on behalf of the DDCS stated that "So, yes, if we came back ...and all of a sudden it turned out that this is not a viable option, that this is not something that they thought in this project, it does not go well, it does not fit into this Preserve, yeah...We are happy to do that.". However, nowhere in this Desert Discovery Center Concept Survey is the community being asked whether they want a DDC in the Preserve. Why? From the January 11 city council meetings and the 2 public outreach meetings on April 20 and 21, the location of the DDC in the Preserve is clearly the #1 issue.

2. The process being followed. I approached the concept of the DDC with an open mind. However, it has become abundantly clear to me that the DDCS is not a "consultant" providing unbiased advice to its client (the city of Scottsdale) but a special interest group attempting to ramrod the DDC into the Preserve, in any way possible. I suppose I should not be surprised by this. What I am surprised by is that, based on the public outreach meeting, the city is really using these meetings to sell the community on the DDC at the Gateway. This isn't public outreach - it's public relations, public marketing. Please fix this. Your credibility as a city is at stake. Can I trust the city to apply the rule of law with this or to rule by law?

1. Tourism is the backbone of the Scottsdale economy
2. The Desert Discovery Center (DDC) is a key element and of great importance to the tourism industry.
3. It's imp't. to educate and inspire people to value and thrive in desert environments through transformative experiences.
5. It's an important attraction for our tourism industry.

1. Traffic--especially coming from Pima and Legacy. Already when there are events at WestWorld there are signs and redirects and it is so congested.
2. Light Pollution
3. Lack of understanding the full size and concept of this center and it's environmental impact--as well as economic. I do not want my taxes to increase--even via an increase in sales tax.
4. I want the Preserve, preserved!!! I overpaid for my home just to get this view of the mountains and now, I'll have to see the buildings at the base and that is NOT why I moved here.
5. Before ANYTHING is finalized this needs to be on the ballot---just having community meetings is not enough feedback---all the voters need to weigh in.
6. There should be NO amphitheater.
7. What would specifically differentiate this from The Desert Botanical Garden and the AZ Desert Museum.
8. What other land parcels are being considered outside of the Gateway area.
9. I like to hike here regularly and honestly, don't want to walk through hoards of school children....
10. I formally lived adjacent to the Hoyt Arboretum in Portland, OR which also had the Oregon Zoo and Children's Museum---and traffic, whenever school was not in session was a NIGHTMARE---despite what the surveys said. People are crazy and drive where they want., make illegal u-turns, etc and that was on the the reasons I bought here---away from the tourist traps!!!

23205 N Church Road

25550 N 82nd St Put it on land already designated commercial - adjacent to the butterfly farm/aquarium would be perfect - all tourist stuff in one place & it is adjacent to the desert, or NE corner of Pima/Princess & 101, or the shopping center just west of Gateway.

A) The DDC should comply with the 32 rules defined in Sec 21.12 of Chapter 21 (McDowell Sonoran Preserve) of the Scottsdale's Code of Ordinance, without an indefinite, blanket override permit issued by the preserve director. Specifically the DDC should comply with rule:

(9) The sale of food, beverages or other merchandise is prohibited

(12) No person shall possess or consume any spirituous liquor, including beer, in or from an open container, in the preserve, except that beer in an open container may be consumed or possessed pursuant to a permit issued by the preserve director

(26) No glass, ceramic or breakable plastic food or beverage containers are permitted in the preserve, except within a motor vehicle in a designated parking area.

(30) No person shall operate any sound amplification system in the preserve. A "sound amplification system" as used in this subsection means any device, instrument or system, whether electrical or mechanical or otherwise, for amplifying sound or for producing or reproducing sound, including, but not limited to any radio stereo, musical instrument, phonograph, or sound or musical recorder or player.

B) The DDC should comply with Chapter 21, Sec 21.13 of the Scottsdale's Code of Ordinance and maintain hour between sunrise and sunset, without an indefinite, blanket override permit issued by the preserve director.

C) There should be no exterior direct or indirect lighting (building, paths, parking, etc), as the hours of operation do not require there use.

Additional parking, blending in with the desert environment, exhibits that celebrate the Sonoran Desert and Scottsdale's commitment to preserving and enhancing that environment.

Alternate sites for the DDC

Asphalt rubber roads & sidewalks that use chopped up tires. Playground with different colors of crumb rubber--both are safer, quieter, and environmentally friendly.

Assuming you locate the DDC at Gateway:

1) Putting a large structure on preserve land, removing open space

2) Bringing more casual users to the preserve with their attendant trash, dog poop, etc.

Build the DCC outside of the preserve . If it is in the preserve have it conform to the existing regulations, (close at sunset, no alcohol no music that can be heard outside of the building, smaller building).

The Gateway Trailhead is not the proper location for the DCC

Buildings and People will change the PRESERVE

And Destroy the natural habitat as it exists

Today

Buildings that blend into the desert (like current trailhead buildings) managing increased traffic on TPP, Bell. Legacy: so as not to negativity impact residents, lots of special exhibits and trails, providing educational and study opportunities for the protection of desert environment.

Come up with defined solution to Mayor Lane's request on additional self funding.

Strategy to address the strong voices that feel DDC should be located outside the Preserve.

Need a plan for operational sustainability.

Concerned about traffic and lighting impact.

consideration of all options in terms of size and features

Consideration of the long term impact on the preserve character, including the open space concept and the "preservation" of the open space. Educational components, such as the nature walks, etc. are a big consideration given the number of school aged children in the area. The impact of increased traffic, etc. must be considered as well...

DDC should be out rightly cancelled. This should NOT be built on preserve. Building DDC inside preserve is destruction of preserve.
Please cancel the construction of DDC. Or move it out of preserve.

Deinitely outside the preserve - the citizens/taxpayers paid to preserve it, not put in a 60 million white elephant. We have something unique that will be lost if the DDC goes in

Desert plant and animal stories and education. Signs showcasing area and valley landmarks that can (seen from the preserve.

Develop a DDC that will blend into the surroundings, provide education to visitors, with limited commercial activity that will be acceptable to the neighboring community - but within hte preserve boundaries.

Do NOT build the DDC near the Gateway Trailhead. Although the DDC may have been envisioned at this site for many years, that fact should NOT make it the de facto site.

The DDC should be placed at a less intrusive site, such as the NE corner of Bell Road and Thompson Peak Pkwy. It can have a just as powerful and immersive experience to its visitors at this location and it won't be a such an abomination to the inherent pristine nature of the preserve.

Visitors to the DDC will be more greatly affected by the following factors than by placement of the structure at the Gateway Trailhead:

- 1) the wide vista of the preserve from Bell Rd/ TP Parkway,
- 2) the architecture and "feel" of the DDC structure, and most importantly...
- 3) the programs and the content provided by the DDC.

Finally, placement of the DDC at the Gateway Trailhead detracts more from the preserve than it adds to any potential value to visitors.

Do not disturb the Gateway Trailhead with unneeded and unnecessary buildings. It is preserve and should be maintained as thus.

Do NOT proceed with this DDC

Do not replicate Desert Botanical Garden

Don't develop the land. Bring water to the other trailheads like Tom's Thumb.

Education - teaching about desert ecology; appreciation regarding the sensitivity and subtleties of the desert; lifestyle habits to reduce impact of development.

Research - U of A has had Desert Lab for over 100 years to track climate, habitat changes, etc.; essential location is at the mountain. Important to those who can't hike.

Education of our desert. Access to our Preserve for visitors/residents who cannot hike. Impactful research for our sustainable future.

Educational way to experience desert, appeals to all ages, visitors from everywhere would not miss, adds to Scottsdale's reputation

Effective communication of the need for Sonoran Desert preservation and environmental education; Profitability of the DDC as an operational entity; If DDC is built with taxpayer dollars and operates at an annual deficit subsidized by taxpayers then free access for Scottsdale schools and students should be part of the deal.
Engaging and inspiring informative experience, sharing of extraordinary Preserve story to encourage greater conservation and preservation by others, must see world class tourist destination, exceptional and exciting field trip opportunity for students of Scottsdale, Valley and state, model of sustainable and striking architecture, good neighbor, renowned global research center
Ensuring dogs are on leashes.
Entertaining Educational experience for my daughter and all children
Environmental sensitivity of the facility.
Excessive traffic and destruction of what little remains of the natural habitat on the base of the West side of the McDowells.
Explaining the plants and the area
Express the delicate hydrologic cycle of the desert. Display how community development can occur in harmony with the natural environment. New development should be a functional part of the environment, contributing in a positive way to the existing ecological systems along with nature in a symbiotic relationship. Respect the wildlife.
Feature water conservation topics.
Find a different location OUTSIDE of the PRESERVE!!! Try the Indian Reservation next to butterflies and dolphins since they have already ruined that land. Or better yet, tear down the car dealerships that ruined the Tom Chauncey ranch!
First of all, I think you need to determine if the Scottsdale citizenry even wants this center. I attended the meeting on May 10 at DC Ranch in which the DDC was represented by Sam Campana and Christine Kovach. They seemed totally disinterested in hearing any of the objections to the DDC by the attendees of this meeting: increased traffic, vagueness concerning the direction and scope for this project, vagueness concerning the potential financial cost of the taxpayers of Scottsdale.
Gift shops and cafe's should not be part of the concept, there are dining options located a half-mile from the trailhead.
Great architecture- Education the public about Desert plants= wildlife- water-sustainability- History/Safety/Organized Tours
How it can benefit residents, students, visitors, researchers and the global understanding of desert environments.
How we can expand the center to offer more experiential learning opportunities for children (e.g., maker spaces, STEAM, etc.)
I am a supporter of the DDC. I would like for It to provides interactive educational displays and activities. It should take into consideration the most recent technology.
I am against any building of the DDC at this location.
I am against the current location for the DDC. I would like some time and effort put forth in finding an alternate site.

<p>I am appalled that DDC is being considered. I oppose building on the preserve. "Education" can happen elsewhere.</p>
<p>I am concerned about the traffic in the area and what the project in general will mean to the neighbors. We live in Windgate Ranch and are concerned about the traffic flow and congestion in and out of our neighborhood. Also concerned about the size of this project - too big for the area. Would like parking entrance to be off of Bell just past Thompson Peak as Bell is better equipped for the cars.</p>
<p>I am interested in knowing more about the exhibits and educational programs, but I do not think that will be available till the fall.</p>
<p>I am most interested in the size of the project. We don't need mega buildings--- we need an orientation center similar to Red Rocks in Las Vegas. Also, given our climate, we can have much of the education accomplished through exhibits in the outdoors. The buildings must blend into the Preserve, not become a monument in and of itself.</p>
<p>I AM TOTALLY AGAINST THIS PROJECT!!! Will vote the Mayor and any council members out of office who support this project!!</p>
<p>I am very much in favor of having a desert discovery center. what is good for tourism is great for those of us who live here! Having great amenities makes for a great quality of life here, lots to do, lots for visitors to come here for. Our desert is awesome, let's showcase it!</p>
<p>I am very worried about traffic and congestion</p>
<p>I and my hiking neighbors and friends see no need for the DDC. We do not want our tax dollars spent on this frill and fiasco which will ruin our pristine desert. We already have a nice interpretive center at the Gateway staffed by competent stewards. When the preserve was established, it was to save the desert from this kind of development. We do not want the DDC at the Gateway or anywhere else in the Preserve.</p>
<p>I attended the input session at the Museum last week and was concerned that this is considered to be a done deal. The language the presenters used was one of "when" not "if". As a result, I am concerned that community input is not wanted. I would like to see this go for a citizen vote, rather than let it be a Couple nick decision. Look at the language used in this doctors meant and you can see what I mean.</p>
<p>I believe the Preserve should be kept as unspoiled as possible and not used for any further building. I'm very skeptical of the size, scale and cost of the project. I also believe the DDC goes against the true purpose of the Preserve to remain free and clear of development.</p>
<p>I did not grow up with the desert and most of my friends and families that come to visit do not have an appreciation for it either. Be sure to make it user friendly.</p>
<p>I do not think that turning the preserve into a tourist attraction is in the best interest of the preserve, wildlife or surrounding people. Keep it wild! There's enough people as it is.</p>
<p>I do not want any development as it is not keeping with the purpose of the preserve. Visitors do not need to be ushered indoors, on land that is preserved, in order to better understand and preserve the desert.</p>

I do not want the center located in the preserve .
I want to know exactly what ASU's funding plan is for building the preserve and financially supporting the center.
I want to know how the DDC would be self-supporting. I would not vote to support a bond issue for this project.
I do not want the DDC, not any part of it! The preserve needs to stay as untouched as possible! That's why it's called a preserve.
I do NOT want the Discovery Center in the Preserve -it is not a Park, it is a preserve and should stay as such.
I don't buy into the mission. As a taxpayer and daily user of this wonderful preserve, I'm not interested in giving up any of that natural space to "inspire a global audience". All they need is to go for a hike without headphones if they want to be inspired.
I don't know enough about the Preserve to make me want to go.
I feel it is important for the DDC to be in the Preserve and the current proposed location is ideal. The project must be sensitive to its location and built in harmony with the desert that it will represent.
I feel the DDC is way too much for the local community and visitors who come here for the non commercial nature of the preserve
I have been trying to discover where in the process of approving the taxes with which to purchase the McDowell Mountain Preserve, the COS City Council gave DDCS full Power of Attorney to operate the DDC WITHIN the preserve. Otherwise, shouldn't the Council have retained authority as to where the DDC is located?
I have not been to the preserve, but I intend to go soon.
I hike often in the preserve, however being in the tourism industry, the preserve serves as THE experience to see, learn and experience the Sonoran Desert.
I strongly feel that the Desert Discovery Center should be located outside the Preserve!
I think additional building in the area is unnecessary and would ruin the integrity and overall feel of the entire wild area.
I think it is important that the DDC have enough space to create learning experiences for our residents and visitors.
I think the trailhead is an excellent facility as it is now constructed. I don't support the strategy of building a discovery center or believe there is a pressing need to create a regional or national attraction in a beautiful part of our McDowell Mountains. This should be an area for hiking - not building more structures. We have other priorities to support with much more importance. If others feel its necessary, why not build it at Westworld or another location where the buildings will not destroy more of the desert and create a "commercial" type of congestion in a residential area.

I think this has already been planned extensively. The location is perfect and not intrusive to neighborhoods. I think noise abatement, trail maintenance, traffic, dust, lighting has already been incorporated into the plan with thought relating it to near neighborhoods.

Visitors to the DDC should experience life in a desert and its multi botanical components along with wildlife specific to our area of the Sonoran Desert. It is such a lush desert with a variety of animal life not familiar to many other parts of the U.S. Also...why it is important to protect the desert plants and wildlife and how fragile the desert ecosystem can be to its survival. Fires, drought, human carelessness and unthinking behaviors damage the desert for years (I hate seeing plastic bags floating around the desert on cactus, ATV riders running over plants and chasing animals, etc.).

I understand it is primarily education based which I think is good.

I would hate to see any of the trails or open space lost to new construction.

I would like it to be built at a different location that is less residential.

I would like the DDC to create some quality outdoor/semi-outdoor public gathering space which is open for the city and community to use for events, education, casual gatherings and incorporate public art and world class architecture.

The edge of the preserve should function like a public park and invite people to use it.

I would like the fact that this is a "preserve," voted for and paid for by Scottsdale citizens, be the overriding directive for any "improvement" or development. A preserve means that this is to be left in as "pristine a state as possible" for us and future generations. This was not meant to bring tourist dollars here, but to be a place for our citizens to enjoy.

I would like the whole concept to be dissolved or moved else where, NOT on the preserve! There are many reasons why it is not appropriate, mainly because it disrupts the preserve's natural environment, the animals, the surrounding people that live right in the area, and the community as a whole. It won't be an upgrade, but a down grade to that specific area of Scottsdale. It will ruin the land that is already preserved for the animals and people to enjoy it's natural state. We don't need to turn the land into a theme park!

I would like to have the proposed development reconsidered and terminated. As a Phoenix native and frequent user of the various preserves we have available to us in Metro Phoenix, I feel that other than preservation of trails and very minor services (restrooms and water at trailheads - which in my mind are even unnecessary) I believe the best way to "preserve" a preserve is to NOT develop within it. The development is not only an unnatural addition, the cost appears to be so excessive it is hard to believe our legislators and council people are even considering it given the other significant funds needs we have elsewhere within the community for supporting services. I would imagine the significant majority of those using the preserve want it to simply be preserved and would be against this proposed development which leads me to believe the proponents of this development either have no use for the preserve, are profiting from the development (directly or indirectly) or are sorely misguided in their assessment of what is necessary - which this development certainly isn't. I have heard that one of the primary needs for the development is to demonstrate the beauty of the preserve to those who cannot otherwise experience the preserve's beauty due to physical impairment. Unfortunately, while all people have equal and open access to state/fed run preserves as they are public, everyone is limited in their own abilities as to how significantly they can utilize these reserves. While some can simply access the parking lots, others can venture 1/4 mile in and still others can hike/bike/horseback the entire preserve due to their physical abilities. The point being the beauty is there for everyone to see, and the beauty is the preserve itself and not a massive Discovery Center Concept building to demonstrate the beauty that is literally outside the building. This is a waste of city time and money and will be another development scar on the beauty that is the preserve nature. We are so fortunate to have these numerous undeveloped land areas within the urban setting that is Scottsdale but if we continue to attempt to manufacture the beauty of these preserve areas with man-made developments that try to portray what is outside we lose the very beauty the preserve represents.

I would like to not see it built.

I would like to see it killed off completely. It's a monstrosity and will undoubtedly ruin the area I have chosen to retire to. Start listening to the people!!!!

I would like to see it left alone, it is perfect as is. I DO NOT WANT IN ANY WAY A DESERT DISCOVERY CENTER. IT is illogical. The Desert is there, if you want to discover it, go for a hike.

I would like to see SINCERE consideration of residents' opinions...there are MANY residents opposed to this project (or at least to having it built IN the Preserve)...yet their opinions fall on deaf ears and the project continues to move forward.

I would also like to see quantitative, statistically significant market research that verifies that the projected number of visitors and tourists will materialize. Right now these are just assumptions, on which this whole project relies.

I would like to see the location of the DDC at the Gateway Trailhead eliminated from consideration, since it violates every meaning of the word PRESERVE.

I would not like to see it built because of all of the traffic and and visitors it will bring to our quiet neighborhood. Also, the money would be better allocated to build a high school at Copper Ridge to ease crowding at Chaparral.

I would prefer to see the DDS be located outside of the actual Preserve. It should definitely conform to all the existing Preserve ordinances if it is located inside the Preserve no exceptions.
I would really like to know why this is being proposed for the preserve. I don't like the tone of the meeting and the verbage used in describing this project as though it is a done deal. There are many places for this project and protected areas do not need to be included.
I'd like to understand what contingency is actually interested in this project. Residents, in majority from my interactions, are opposed to it. So those interested in it must be from outside the area. Who are these people, and what price of entry are they paying to build something in the backyard of residents who don't want this? Is there a mass of outdoor enthusiasts beating down the door of our local government to have this?
If this venue is going to be a driver for tourism, the DDC needs to be entertaining in addition to being educational. If the focus is strictly on passive, educational experiences, consumers will come once to check it out, but won't be back.
If we are to leave the preserve "walking away respecting, valuing and connecting with the desert", having the "DDC respect neighbors – human and wildlife", and inspire the next generation to care for their environment", then we really should be leaving it in it's most natural state. The wildlife and plants can't take any additional encroachment on their home. The neighbors want to maintain a peaceful, quiet, natural, limited light and limited traffic pollution environment into which they moved. We want to show the next generation that life isn't always about the hustle and bustle, about money and tourism. We want to show them with our actions (not just our words) that life is about slowing down, living in the moment, having gratitude, helping others, caring for the earth, and living in balance and harmony with our surroundings. It would be a shame to build on the natural preserve.
Imagine "Disney of the Desert" and then do the exact opposite: Maintain the natural beauty and serenity of the environment. Low impact, tastefully designed. Value education over entertainment and commercial interests. Consider long-term impact over short-term revenue opportunities.
Importance of preserving open spaces for recreational activities like hiking, walking, biking, running, enjoying nature.
Incorporating Southwest Wildlife into the DDC - this would make the educational and discovery experience unique and world class. PLEASE keep the Center within the Preserve at Gateway - NOT outside on other property - that would be like putting the Grand Canyon North Rim Lodge outside the Park - just plain nuts.
Increase in traffic on roads and trails, preserve / habitat destruction to make way for new buildings increased parking space
Increased car traffic - impact on the trails with increased foot traffic - impact on wildlife
Increased traffic
Integrated and interactive programs for families and children. Open event space for potential special events or activities that still respects the preserve.

<p>Integration with mission and work of McDowell Sonoran Conservancy Compatibility with the adjacent desert Focus on Arizona Sonoran Desert</p>
<p>Issue 1: Relocate the Discovery Center off the foothills Issue 2: Why do we need to have so many partners to get a piece of the land for a special interest project - under the guise of contributing to the planet and our education. If all of these partners want to contribute, explore another location to accommodate them.</p>
<p>Issue to be addressed is to NOT BUILD THIS PROJECT</p>
<p>It is my understanding that there is a Preserve Ordinance in place (which we were soooo very thrilled about when we moved to Windgate Ranch. This Preserve has RULES and this construction project needs to follow rules that are in place - not just change them to fit someone else's agenda. This DDC needs to be moved outside this preserve. There is too much at stake including the entire integrity of our Preserve in these Sonoran mountains</p>
<p>Just to keep the integrity of the land - keep it low impact.</p>
<p>Keep it simple; interpretive signs, visitor center, ranger talks, restroom facilities. NO restaurant, NO gift shop, NO other businesses at this location .</p>
<p>Keeping the "feel" of it and avoiding any sense of congestion.</p>
<p>Keeping the DDC off the preserve as its proposed size is not consistent with preserve ordinance. It is also would be disruptive to wildlife. Find another location for such a project and keep the preserve free of cafes and gift shops!</p>
<p>learning about sustainability of the desert, culture of native inhabitants. Arts and Cultural activities. Education of children on the preserve.</p>
<p>Limit construction to maintaining existing facilities. Cancel overly ambitious(?) construction plans...DDC. Desert Discovery Center should be moved elsewhere or cancelled as unnecessary. Stick to maintaining trails and trailheads and preserving 100% of open space. The measure of success is not how much we can build but rather how much open space we preserve.</p>
<p>LIMITED STRUCTURES!. We do not need 17 buildings. Cave Creek Regional Park off Carefree Highway has ONE very nice intrepertive center that house a gift shop, provides a story hour for kids, has a mile intrepertive walk for children around the building, ranger led narrative tours, etc.</p>
<p>Limiting the number of people who can access each day.</p>
<p>LOCATION - LOCATION - LOCATION !!!</p>
<p>location - not in favor of Gateway location size and scope - the 2010 plan was way too big and expensive</p>
<p>Location- it should not be located on preserve land</p>
<p>Location- should not be on the preserve</p>
<p>Location. Size of project.</p>
<p>Location: Please do not put the DDC in the Preserve. Place it outside the Preserve or require the DDC to comply with all existing Preserve Ordinances and rules.</p>
<p>Major tourist & local visitor appeal</p>
<p>Make it and educational opportunities available for ALL persons regardless of economic status. Keep commercialism to a necessary minimum. Preserve nature.</p>

Making the DDC either totally conform to the existing Preserve Ordinance including, all the Preserve Rules or move it outside the Preserve
Making the DDC either totally conform to the existing Preserve Ordinance including, all the Preserve Rules, OR moving it outside the Preserve
Making the DDC either totally conform to the existing Preserve Ordinance including, all the Preserve Rules, OR moving it outside the Preserve” for the first one.
Making the DDC either totally conform to the existing Preserve Ordinance including, all the Preserve Rules, OR moving it outside the Preserve
Minimizing the amount of desert destroyed to build the center. The proposal that has been circulated is too large - it destroys the desert it is supposed to be about, and would be a blight on the otherwise unobstructed view of the mountains. It should be smaller than what has been proposed. The current proposal would additionally cause too much traffic on the surrounding roads, which about the preserve.
More interactive exhibits My kids love the Desert and would be more engaged with this beautiful resource
Move it to less residential neighborhood. Scale back the plan, move traffic away from TP Highway and Bell Road
Moving it outside the Preserve.
Moving the DDC to a site OUTSIDE the Preserve. Bringing the final proposal (site, cost, etc.) to a public vote.
MOVING THE DESERT DISCOVERY TO ANOTHER LOCATION. WE LIVE IN DC RANCH BECAUSE IT IS SAFE, QUIET, FAMILY ORIENTED, AND HAS LITTLE TO NO TRAFFIC. THE DESERT DISCOVERY CENTER WILL CHANGE ALL OF THAT!
Moving this project out of the PRESERVE. Listen to the citizens of Scottsdale.
My family and I are adamantly opposed to the DDC being built within the preserve boundary. We believe there are many other viable options that would not destroy any more irreplaceable & precious acres of the preserve, nor would they be wrought with controversy that the Gateway location holds.
My family and I enjoy the preserve as it is. We love being able to escape into nature and discover the sonoran desert as it is. We see wildlife and enjoy the quiet mornings and early evenings in the beautiful mountains. We have hiked all over these trails - discovered deer, gila monsters, snakes, bobcats, coyotes, even a tortoise! When we chose to build our home in Windgate Ranch, we paid a premium to live across the street from the preserve. We could have built the same Toll Brothers home 15 miles up the road for \$300k less. It is upsetting that our premium property with unobstructive views and access to these gorgeous tranquil hiking trails may be turned into a high-volume tourist attraction. Home values are going to go down, traffic increase, and our environmental impact on this land is damaged.
None - great facility
None. It is a preserve. It should be preserved... not developed.
None. It is a preserve. It should be preserved... not developed.
Not in the Preserve, not funded by the City. Privately funded, not in the Preserve. I will be voting against the City council members who support this.

Number and size of buildings
Ongoing financial support - Will it be able to sustain itself? How will it impact local area, traffic etc. Impact on Gateway Trail Head. Buildings must fit in and not commercialize this beautiful area. More clearly define mission and goals.
Other locations. This is a PRESERVE
Please assure that the DDC is 100% in line with all the Preserve Ordinances and Rules otherwise relocate it to another location.
Please choose another location.
please dont pave over our Preserve
Please ensure that this becomes a world-class facility and shares the special story of our unique treasure; the Sonoran Desert. This is such a terrific opportunity for our visitors and residents alike and it most assuredly will become one of Scottsdale's signatures points of pride.
Possibility of alternative location Citizen voting on the proposal
Preserve should remain a preserve. I am against any further building. It should stay as it is. The residents of Scottsdale did not vote on this initiative. We do not want it.
Proposed budget, traffic count, impact upon the flood plain
Put the customer first, i.e. ensure it appeals to visitors and puts Scottsdale's best foot forward, supports education and environmental conservation and sustainability.
Putting this proposal to the public to vote on whether or not we want tax payer money spent on this project. Reconsider the location for the proposed site. Across from westworld would be more suitable. Reconsider the size and scope of the project. We do not want this placed in a mostly residential neighborhood.
Respect for the surrounding area and neighbors, adequate parking,, room for horse trailers, a place for tourists or groups to gather for lunch, events, meeting spot, etc
Say NO to the DDC
Say NO to the DDC
Sensitivity to desert environment
stop the naysayers from feeding false information and allow the process to continue in a transparent manner
Such a huge project would be detrimental to the peaceful, quiet preserve area and the surrounding neighborhoods.
Tell the truth about this project. The opposition has floated a lot of misinformation and it's getting emailed around as truth. The City needs to strongly correct information so people have the facts. We need this center and it's an important part of our future tourism development. Having a center in the Preserve makes the most sense. We want people to learn about our desert and respect it.

That it be built somewhere else!!!! It is OUTRAGEOUS that this project is being planned for the Preserve. The word preserve says it all "maintain something in its original state". This center could be built elsewhere. The current rules don't provide for this and it is clear SPECIAL INTERESTS are driving this. It is a desecration of the preserve for commercial interests. This is not right! Build it near Westworld, which makes a lot more sense. It does not belong in the preserve!!!!

The architectural compatibility with the desert.

The area is a beautiful preserve. The thought of man-made buildings changing the natural beauty is very concerning. The wildlife in the area has gone down considerably over the last few years with home development. Additional development will not bring them back.

I am also very concerned about how my tax dollars will subsidize a project like this. I understand that the tourism industry benefits. 90% of residents are not part of that industry. Why are we helping them. The Botanical Gardens, Phoenix Zoo and most other tourist attractions are not built in residential neighborhoods. The cost to enhance the roadways will be very disruptive to the area. Westworld is already there. When large events are going on, the area is already a challenge to get around. The volume of tourists needed to make this financially viable implies we will need gridlock year round to make it work.

Finally, the lowering of home values with this center will lower property tax revenues leading to more budget challenges for the city leading to higher taxes for all. Once the Preserve is destroyed, we will never be able to restore it.

The balance between DDC and the open access of Gateway will be critical. This has to be a National Geographic quality center...not a gimmick. Traffic flow, increased access to current trails, crime concerns (more people, cars that are a target, etc. The Center has to be WORLD CLASS.

The city should revisit the commitment to locate the DDC on the Preserve. The functions of the DDC are no better served on the preserve than off; and development appears contradictory to the idea of a preserve and primarily aimed at tourism, according to the Council's January 2016 report.

The DDC has no place on the preserve. It goes against the whole idea what the preserve is.

The DDC needs to be exciting! It can't just be an "interpretative" museum. It has to showcase the desert in such a light that anyone who comes to the trail head will want to show it to their family and friends, rather than immediately hitting the trail.

It should serve as the focal point for tours of the desert so that no matter when someone visits, they can hop on a tour of their choice to experience the desert.

The DDC needs to respect the integrity of the Preserve by being located OUTSIDE the Preserve and then orient visitors to experiences inside the Preserve to further their knowledge, such as interpretative trails and steward led educational hikes, that are totally compatible with the Preserve Ordinance and guidelines that already exist. The Preserve is the gem, the ultimate experience, and it should not be degraded by putting a bunch of large buildings in the Preserve. The combination of a DDC outside the Preserve with in Preserve educational experiences in the Preserve is the right way to go which solves ALL the problems created by trying to jam it in the Preserve.

The DDC violates every Preserve Ordinance. Money to enter, Fences to prevent hikers access to the DDC, nighttime operation, BULLDOZING 30 acres of Preserve just to replant after sewer, water, utilities trenches are dug, destroying a large deer fawning area, destroying an ancient indian village you don't even know about.

Not enough public outreach.

DDC board members that don't live in Scottsdale

The design should blend into the surrounding landscape

The entire concept behind a preserve is keeping it preserved for nature and wildlife. Bulldozing over 30 acres of a preserve is incompatible with this concept. The Sonoran wildlife is active almost exclusively at night. The proposal to include night time events, lighting, and an amphitheater seems as though the marketers have lost sight of the concept of a preserve. Making the DDC either totally conform to the existing Preserve Ordinance including, all the Preserve Rules, OR moving it outside the Preserve would be something I would demand be addressed. The purpose of a preserve is not to generate revenue for the City of Scottsdale, it is to keep land preserved and undeveloped.

The issue I see is that general wants/desires/forecasting of what the center will become has been decided. You may say otherwise but that is just talk. Partnerships are already developed; an architect is to be hired soon, etc. Now, it appears the DDC planners want to convince the public that we want this, too. The designation of DDC as a grand tourist attraction should have been made--and still should be--by the citizens. We are being brought in much too late. There should be a public vote.

The issue is this - you are being hypocritical by bulldozing this land and putting some inane "desert discovery center" in it. Leave the land be! That is what I paid taxes to do - this is just a political encroachment on what was supposed to be left unblemished. How dare you think you can do better than mother nature.

The location and scale of the project. I favor a small project so that we can keep the majority of our pristine desert, a preserve. Not a massive project with numerous buildings.

The main concern I have is the traffic that will impact the area neighborhoods. McDowell Mountain Ranch is already hit hard every time traffic is routed through our area for Westworld events and the Open.

The preserve is perfect the way it is. I love it and do not want to see the integrity of it touched at all. This project doesn't seem to make any sense to me. We live in this neighborhood, we use the preserve and we 100% do NOT want this to happen.

The preserve was meant to be just that, a preserve. To desecrate it by building a desert disneyland" with a 900 car parking lot violates the intent of the original plan and destroys this magnificent wonder of nature, not to mention displacing the natural wildlife that lives there. I will work very hard to prevent this plan from happening. Build the DDC next to West World and run a shuttle to this wonderland. Don't destroy it. I am not looking for any of the below if the DDC destroys part of the preserve to put it there. I particularly scoff at the last entry (Inspires visitors to change a behavior aimed at preserving the desert environment). How can visitors think about preserving the desert if the City of Scottsdale has already begun to destroy it. What an ironic choice this is in your survey.

The project team needs to go back and work on finding another location for this other than the Preserve. Their original concept had been met by building the small amphitheater and an informational trail that people can walk. There are already many ways for visitors to be able to enjoy their time at the Preserve. There is no reason to destroy any more of the preserve.

There are several issues with this potential project. First and foremost- I don't recall ever seeing this on a ballot to be voted on. Please address when this will be up for vote.

this is a bad idea, run by our politicians who are ignoring the people who keep saying they don't want a DDC. should be privately developed or not at all.

This project must be halted. A preserve is a preserve. To be preserved, NOT overloaded by assaults on the surrounding neighborhood (increased traffic), pollution, potential damage to the trails and native habitat of desert creatures. Instead, plan an off-site free-standing educational and research facility to accomplish that if you must, but not in the PRESERVE.

This project will not be self sustainable, why mislead the public that it will. Phoenix Botanical Gardens and Phoenix Zoo have had to raise fees to sustain both. Excessive amounts of money have been expended without public comment. The council leadership picks and chooses the public comments at the council meetings. I listened to the March meeting and all the pro DDC promoters were heard before the con's against the development. Because people usually lose interest in the first 20 minutes, this meeting was stacked against opponents. I'm deeply concerned about the effort to shove this project down our throats.

This response supplements information provided in my earlier responses. While I think the major focus should be on education, conservation, and environmental research. The DDC should also include information about Scottsdale's Scenic Corridors and their relationship to the Preserve and the Desert Foothills Scenic Drive as part of Scottsdale's preservation heritage. Also, an idea that should be considered for adoption at some point is a shuttle, perhaps using Scenic Corridors, that links the Gateway to the various trailheads and the exhibits that are at those locations, i.e. using existing exhibits and distributing new ones between trailheads. The DDC and a shuttle provides an opportunity to not only showcase the Gateway area but other parts of the city.

This should be all about our natural desert, it's original inhabitants and what we are harming as we grow, how interdependent native plant and animal species are on each other and how invasive species, including humans, harm the desert. Should also be accessible to handicapped/challenged persons. Should be entirely sustainable and net-zero.

<p>To get the project off the ground, it is important that the city minimize the impact on residents who live nearby. To make it a success over the long-term focus must be on meeting the needs of the customer, while providing something that is truly unique and "world-class." The focus must be on the objectives. A subject like the history of the preserve is important but can be told using few resources and as background information for the main theme. The preserve exists so this is an opportunity to add value by providing learning opportunities with educational and research exhibits and work to attract interest in Scottsdale by visitors, companies, etc. Offering a variety of tours is a way to tailor content for different audiences and markets without changing exhibit contents, etc. It would seem with the growing interest in climate change and environmental conservation and the public's interest in wildlife, the preserve provides many interesting exhibit topics.</p>
<p>To make the structure to fit in to the feel of the desert, not a huge building.</p>
<p>Too much traffic, increased crime, increased noise, increased pollution, increase trash, increased light pollution at night. Disruption of natural habitat. Toxification of the water shed.</p>
<p>Traffic</p>
<p>Traffic and crime impact on immediate residential surroundings.</p>
<p>Traffic and parking - we walk or bike from our house with our two kids and I am very concerned about the increase in traffic, noise, and noise and air pollution. I want to make sure that the walkways on Legacy, Bell and Thompson Peak remain accessible and enjoyable.</p>
<p>Traffic and volume of visitors. I'm very supportive of sharing the desert and its uniqueness with visitors, but am concerned about large numbers of visitors and their impact on the residents of the area.</p>
<p>Traffic control</p>
<p>Traffic on Thompson Peak Parkway Parking at Gateway Easy access for people there just to hike Effort made to decrease tourists that are not prepared to hike from hiking</p>
<p>Traffic on TPP. People speed as it is and endanger the pedestrian traffic of walkers, runners and bikers. More traffic will bring more possibilities of something happening between the cars and pedestrians. Speeds need to be controlled.</p>
<p>Besides that we don't need the DDC. How can you build something on a preserve to show how good you are at preserving the environment? Seems counter intuitive to the concept of a preserve.</p>
<p>Traffic, lights, desert preservation</p>
<p>Traffic, noise and land pollution.</p>
<p>Traffic, noise, light invasion at night, destruction of more desert. Special events and the disruption to our way of life in the DC Ranch Community.</p>
<p>Traffic, noise, loss of preserved, untouched, beautiful land</p>
<p>Traffic, specifically both unbuilt bridges, loss of night sky, noise, cost and most importantly, the loss of the natural preserve. This project will negatively impact our way of life in DC Ranch.</p>
<p>Traffic, volume of people for this location, the disruption of the preserve and the wildlife in the area, noise pollution, burden on local residents.</p>

Trail development, excellent signage to keep visitors on the trails. Educational signs, like what's around the east land-slide area.
Use of technology and temporary exhibits, programs, etc to replace permanent facilities.
We are buying our dream home in Windate Ranch that is right on Thompson Peak between the Gateway Trail and The Village. I am opposed to the DDC being in that location and it was not disclosed to me when we purchased the lot (not your issue). However, after attending the meeting last night, I believe you are in violation of the codes.
We are members of the Conservatory. We are delighted the trailhead is near us. WE DO NOT WANT THE ADDED DDC. That would add more traffic and congestion than necessary. It was planned as a desert preserve, not a tourist attraction. USE THE MONEY TO BUILD A NEW HIGH SCHOOL at COPPER RIDGE. WE NEED THAT!
We would like to see the desert kept as natural as possible for the plants and animals that live there. We would like to see minimal construction in the area.
What part of "Preserve" don't you understand? The impact of all those man-made buildings on what little pristine desert we have remaining will be gone forever. Ordinance 3321 states that the preserve will not contain facilities associated with a public park, will be left in as pristine a state as possible, will not sell food, beverages or other merchandise, will not remove any live or dead trees, will not remove or excavate any soil from within the preserve, will not allow sound amplification, etc, etc. So far, all the plans discussed at public meetings violate every one of these articles. What about the plants wildlife that will be displaced?? I feel like we were tricked into voting to preserve the desert while all of these plans were the real reason for the vote. I am completely against the plans of invading and destroying our desert under the guise of "education". The center that is there now has a meeting room and an amphitheater area that can be utilized for education.
what will define the DDC? How will it distinguish itself from other venues like the Botanical Garden? How experiential will it be? If it is to be an education center, will it incorporate 21st century technology and learning for the 21st century?
When will the voters have the opportunity to vote on the taxpayers cost associated with the building and annual cost to run the DDC? How does the City plan to handle the additional pedestrian and vehicle traffic in the area? How will this be any different than the Desert Botanical Gardens and what such a large and expensive project?
why build in a pristine preserve when there is available land around westworld for many projects? In other words , why not choose land already in use by the city for functions and expand its facilities!! It ought to be cheaper as parking is already there et al.....
Wildlife are being displaced from their natural habitat. Parking and congestion; traffic hazards. Noise and lights
World destination and preserving the upper Sonoran desert through education and research
Would like to keep the preserve a preserve...no building. What is the point of the preserve if you are going to build on it??

You are building the center on one of the only trails that people who can't o the steeper hikes can access. That happens to be also an area that has amazing vegetation. Can't you move it more west to the area where there is less trails and also less vegetation.

You must complete the second bridges on Thompson Peak Parkway and Legacy to accommodate increased traffic and for Biker safety.

Please note the following entries were duplicated several times within the survey results.

Comment Received	Number of Occurrences
Citizens dont want the DDC!!	65
DDC no no	61
DDC=no no no!!!	57
dont want this project at all	5
I do not want this wasteful project	65
I don't want the Discovery Center at all	63
NO DDC in Scottsdale	60
NO DDC no NO!!!	69
NO DDC!	82
NO NO NO DDC	66
NO to the DDC!	61
\$300 wasted per residen - no to the Desert Discovery Center	81
no! this project is a handout to Developers	49
Desert Disney Center is a special-interest handout, NO!!!!	75
NO DDC no Korte, no Klapp, no Lane	60
NO DDC, vote out Klapp, Lane and Korte	64
Korte, Lane and Klapp are bought by the Tourism industry	83
No to Lane and his Developer Cronies	61
no ddc in our Preserve	62
NO DDC in the Preserve	55

Question 6: The project team would like to incorporate your thoughts regarding the planning and vision for the Desert Discovery Center into the planning process– what experiences might visitors have there, how can the DDC be a community resource, what should the architect and experience designer keep in mind as they begin their work? Please take a look at the following list and check those items that would be important to you as a community member.

Environmental/Conservation Considerations

- 135 Visitors walk away respecting, valuing and connecting with the desert
- 60 Renowned as a global research center on desert environments
- 141 DDC respects neighbors – human and wildlife
- 102 Built as a model for sustainable, low-scale/impact, desert architecture
- 53 Policy makers take notice of research to inform global decisions regarding living in arid environments
- 89 Serves as a portal for the McDowell Sonoran Preserve so visitors better understand the surrounding environment

Community Impact

- 70 Tells the story of “The People’s Preserve”
- 99 Scottsdale becomes known for its environmental and conservation ethic
- 85 Becomes “the” field trip for Scottsdale and surrounding area school children
- 104 Serves as a point of pride for Scottsdale residents – a place they want to be and that they want to take visitors
- 52 DDC partnerships reinforce and support the DDC’s mission
- 52 Provides enhanced opportunities for volunteerism

Educational Opportunities

- 115 Provides opportunities for learners of all ages (preschool through adult learners)
- 64 Conducts scientific research on a local and global level
- 96 Changes people's perception of and relationship to the desert
- 60 Adds a Valley focal point for STEM education opportunities
- 102 Inspires the next generation to care for their environment
- 64 Provides a venue for lectures and symposiums

Visitor Experience

- 67 Offers changing exhibits – you rarely see the same thing twice
- 54 Provides interactive, high-tech multimedia experiences
- 60 Daily rituals – sunrise/sunset ceremonies, Native American traditions
- 85 Experience is revelatory – you see the desert from the macro, actual and micro levels
- 55 Provides opportunities to experience the Sonoran Desert in other ways – art, poetry, cooking
- 76 Inspires visitors to change a behavior aimed at preserving the desert environment

Question 7: Please provide any general comments on the DDC Concept and this evening's public meeting.

1. The proposed location of the Desert Discovery Center is on 30 acres of the McDowell Sonoran Preserve at the Gateway area. A development of this magnitude would alter the pristine state of this area, contradicting the purpose of the preserve stated in the McDowell Sonoran Preserve Ordinance.
 2. The proposed location at the Gateway creates numerous issues for nearby neighborhoods and schools (e.g., significantly increased traffic, noise, nighttime operations, etc...)
 3. The proposed location at the Gateway is in conflict with the McDowell Sonoran Preserve Ordinance, as it will likely require sound amplification, concessions including food, charging entrance fees, physical barriers, and nighttime operations to name a few.
 4. The proposed location at the Gateway would set a dangerous precedent for future development of the preserve. If the DDC is suitable, what else could be developed in the preserve? If 30 acres can be developed, why not 100 or 1000? Particularly given the (debatable) position clearly articulated by the Scottsdale city council and its attorney at the public meeting on January 11 that the council by majority vote can decide to build whatever it wants to in the preserve.
 5. The existing Gateway trailhead already provides appropriate public facilities for educational and passive outdoor recreational activities, including the citizen science and research initiatives of the McDowell Sonoran Conservancy. This is the people's preserve, not a park, university extension, or commercial development opportunity.
 6. The DDC Site Location Analysis conducted May 2013 that is being used to justify the Gateway location is considerably flawed. It was conducted by the same firm that put forth a DDC proposal in 2010, rather than an independent consultant. The analysis lacks sufficient data and in-depth analysis leading to its conclusions, making a number of unsubstantiated and dubious claims. It is less of an analysis and more of an opinion.
 7. Locating the DDC at 90th St and Bell Rd is substantially more advantageous than locating it at the Gateway. The 90th and Bell Rd site does not have any of the disadvantages of the Gateway location I highlight above. Additionally, this site has greater appeal to an operator given its proximity to the 101 loop, West World, other tourist venues, and is about a mile from the Preserve's Gateway trailhead. The land is already owned by the city and is of significantly larger size to the current Gateway location being considered.
- Additionally,
- a) The DDC should not be funded with public funds explicitly approved for the McDowell Sonoran Preserve.
 - b) Regardless of location, the DDC should not be funded with any public money without a vote by the citizens, including operating and capital costs.
 - c) The McDowell Sonoran Preserve Ordinance should not be amended to accommodate a DDC, without a citizen vote.

Thanks for the opportunity to provide my inputs.

DRAFT

20 years ago when the DDC became a vision there was no housing in the area or even a road. There should never be a tourist attraction in a residential neighborhood. There are plenty of other locations to place such a concept without it being at the Gateway or on any other Preserve and most definitely, not in a residential neighborhood. At the meeting Thursday night, they discussed that it would help Scottsdale tourism. I can assure you that people don't come all the way to Scottsdale for something like the DDC. People come here for the weather, golf, and spa. It will do nothing for our economy but could actually hurt it. As you can imagine, no one wants to live near a tourist attraction, so it is likely many would sell their houses and then it could hurt our housing market.

25550 N 82nd St Put it on land already designated commercial - adjacent to the butterfly farm/aquarium would be perfect - all tourist stuff in one place & it is adjacent to the desert, or NE corner of Pima/Princess & 101, or the shopping center just west of Gateway. Also, I chose to resign as a Steward due to the the MSC management partisan advocacy for this & censorship of any dissenting opinion.

A Desert Discovery Center does not belong in the Preserve

<p>All of the above are all well and good and can take place somewhere else. The people really do have a say [or should] in what is being "proposed" which isn't really a proposal, it seems the entire thing has been planned and approved without actually taking input from the people who live in the area. Isn't it government for the people by the people or have I missed something.</p> <p>Vivian Cielak</p>
<p>All of the above can be done for a lot less than 60 million and outside the protected area</p>
<p>All of the items I checked above would not be satisfied by the current 30 acre plan, or really any plan inside the preserve. There are myriad locations available outside the preserve that the DDC could occupy without damaging the preserve and still readily advancing their advertised agenda. I am so passionate about the preserve and maintaining its integrity that I would gladly break my usual voting habits to support, or rather oppose, candidates who do not share my passion.</p>
<p>Any plans for the DDC need to be put to vote.</p>
<p>As a resident that enjoys hiking and biking the gateway loop I'm surprised at the redundancy of the DDC to the Botanical Gardens. It's concerning how the City council has unilaterally decided to bulldoze 20 acres of pristine desert and put up 70,000 sq ft in buildings to "showcase" what was just flattened.</p>
<p>As a Scottsdale native, I am very proud of the opportunities afforded by the Desert Discovery Center.</p>
<p>As an area resident, this large scale project would only negatively effect the community and residents and the funds would be better spent on education and elsewhere</p>
<p>AZ is a beautiful state and only adding more items like this would only destroy what makes this state great. And that's the beautiful, non-altered landscape. Please take into consideration why Havasupi only allows some many hiking permits per year and that's to not destroy the natural setting. We as humans will only make matters worse if we put a project like "Discovery Center" in the Preserve.</p>
<p>Bad idea. Leave that beautiful area alone.</p>
<p>Be gentle and do not disturb habitat. Provide enhancements to habitat where possible and use only native/indigenous plant and hardscape materials.</p>
<p>Be realistic about where to put efforts. This can't be everything to everyone. I believe in exposing children to the real desert, teaching them; also offering "virtual" experiences to people who otherwise won't or can't experience the desert. I think virtual experiences help preserve nature in other ways too.</p>
<p>City staff violates every Environmental Sensitive Land city building code for outdoor lighting at Westworld....which is part of the Preserve. Why would anyone expect the DDC to do anything different? Or does the DDC also want music concerts like the Tourism task force, recommended?</p>
<p>Concept needs to address a realistic funding mechanism that will garner community support.</p>
<p>Could be a game-changer for Scottsdale. Must be in the Preserve or don't do it in Scottsdale. Gives a way for people who don't live next to preserve or can't hike a way to get value from their investment.</p>
<p>Council must consider placing the discovery center where tourists are already attracted so as to avoid new pressure on the perimeter of the Preserve. Those tourists who wish to learn more and on a first-hand basis, should receive directions to the appropriate trailhead or use special trolleys to get there with docents guiding the way while on the trolley and on arrival at the Preserve.</p>
<p>Current plan is too large to have only limited impact on the preserve and the community - the more successful DDC is the worse it will be on the environment and the experiences people currently have.</p>
<p>Do it! It's been drug out so long that it has had too many years to nitpick the original concept.</p>
<p>Do not build this giant tourist facility in our beautiful preserve!</p>

Do not develop the preserve. It is a wonderful place. The reason it is wonderful is because it is not developed. Development and preservation are mutually exclusive.
Do not develop the preserve. It is a wonderful place. The reason it is wonderful is because it is not developed. Development and preservation are mutually exclusive.
Do not make this "Disneyland in the Desert"
Be cautious of high tech interactive installations- they become dated or don't work as expected. Direct experience in the outdoors is superior to indoors.
Don't build it on the preserve. If it has to be built here make it small-original scope of the project- to limit impact on the preserve and on the neighbors. No new parking and no facility large enough to require additional traffic controls.
Don't commercialize or destroy any more of OUR desert! We already have a Discovery Center at the Sonoran Desert Museum in Tucson. Take a nice 2 hour drive to Tucson if you want a field trip for school children and all the things you are planning in Scottsdale. Our state already has that. Your plans are not for the lofty intentions you propose in your meetings. They are merely a way to attract tourism and generate money for Scottsdale. You're not fooling anyone!!!
Dont destroy Ben Tre in order to save it
Don't do it! There's already a discovery center a block away!
Don't do it. It's a waste of precious resources. Once you bulldoze the land you cannot get it back and Scottsdale has notoriously disregarded the opinions of the tax payers and just executed what they, in their narrow political minds, wanted to do.
Even this survey is biased! Is this for real? I don't want anything built in the preserve. You folks are not listening to the people. The same people who will vote the council members and mayor out of office. Enjoy your last few months as Mayor, Mr. Lane.
Every time I'm out there to visit family my husband and I run the trails. My children hike the trails with their grandparents. Please don't sacrifice any trails or open space for new construction.
Everything mentioned above will ensure a wonderful experience
Fabulous concept that I cannot wait to see when I visit Scottsdale where I grew up
I actually fell like all these things are already available at the Gateway.
I am adamantly opposed to the DDC. Over the past 15 years I have seen the area north of Bell and Thompson Peak explode with development together with other areas of Scottsdale. Scottsdale is losing its charm all in the name of development and the almighty tourist dollar. The Desert Botanic Garden as well as the Arizona Sonoran Desert Museum in Tucson more than explains the wonderful diversity of the Sonoran desert, its unique flora, fauna and wildlife and they also promote preservation. We certainly do not need to duplicate the efforts of these two wonderful organizations. The Gateway provides wonderful access to the desert and provides educational resources (granted its limited) for those who are interested. Please keep the McDowell Mountain Preserve as it is to be enjoyed by residents and visitors alike.
I am against the current location being considered for the DDC. I think the DDC idea is great but to put it in the preserve goes against what the preserve was created for.
I am against the project's size (all the buildings will distract from the beauty of the preserve) and entrance off of Thompson Peak.
I am all for it. Can't see why anyone wouldn't be, traffic in their immediate neighborhood? Thompson Peak is a main artery road and it can handle it. Once the DDC is there, the neighbors will have another point of pride for their neighborhood.

I am all in favor of the DDC, it is an excellent idea, however locating it in the preserve is totally unacceptable.
I am not a hiker. With a Discovery Center, I would certainly go to learn about the desert , which may then inspire me to hike it.
I am opposed to any building of the DDC. I would like to preserve the area as it is and extremely opposed to the potential traffic. This would significantly disrupt our neighborhood and the natural habitat. I would like an opportunity to vote on the building of the DDC and feel that the community should be able to vote.
I am opposed to 'event' type things---research is fine, but cafes ceremonies, bus, school children--NO
I am opposed to the entire project. Just leave the desert alone!
I am STRONGLY opposed to the proposed location of the DDC, put it someplace else! Too close to residential neighborhoods the traffic will be deadly and disruptive to neighborhood tranquility.
I am the newly elected VP for the DC Ranch Association Board of Directors and I attended last night's presentation. I also attended the session for board members. I'm hoping my feedback will be received as it is intended, genuine and constructive with no agenda. I came into last night's meeting completely neutral, and even as I heard objections to the DDC from others my response was always, I just want facts and then I'll form an opinion. For several reasons, last night has now shifted me from neutral to concerned: First, I was struck that a considerable number of residents, from all parts of DC Ranch, raised legitimate concerns. Although some of it was emotional rather than reasoned, emotions are also reasonable. The most striking comments came from one gentleman who referred to the DDC as a tourist trap. The other was Sam's comments about what life is like in downtown Scottsdale. Generally, our residents did not buy homes here to be located to a tourist destination. In fact, quite the opposite. Although you feature use of DDC by residents, with the funding coming from tourist dollars and admitted intentions to make the DDC part of the advertising campaign to attract visitors from the midwest, you are in fact considering the creation of a tourist destination. Quite simply, we don't want that for our backyard. Residents in homes much larger and more expensive than mine love the serenity of the desert and less traffic and traffic noise than just about anywhere in Scottsdale and especially downtown. I was also disappointed to hear Sam say that just yesterday there was discussion about traffic. We raised this as our major concern when you met with the board and yet nothing more has been done to address our concerns. Frankly, your credibility on this issue is in question. We heard different numbers in terms of estimated car traffic and I agree with those who said to compare the capacity to what it would have been falls on deaf ears. That's not our world. And this is also a community very frustrated about the city's failure to address the single lane bridge and you won't convince anyone that more traffic won't travel that roadway with DDC. In fact, tourists are quite likely to explore the whole area once they've traveled to visit DDC. This brings me to the great concerns we have about traffic on Legacy (also raised when you met with the board members) a narrower roadway with lots of pedestrian, school kids and traffic. You offered no comment on this concern. Credibility is also questioned with the name Basha as the person in charge of traffic studies for Scottsdale. The only way to bring any credibility to this issue is with an independent, non city traffic consultant. And frankly even then I'm not sure it would help. What the gentleman said about our traffic nightmares during key events here is so true and while there may be only 3 of those events a year, they are concentrated in the same time of year and then adding whatever is the correct number of additional cars on TP would really be a nightmare. In closing it might just be that with so little factual information there was no way for last night to produce anything but the result it did. Unfortunately, once people develop the level of concern expressed and question the credibility of the presenters it's hard to imagine how to overcome the reactions we heard last night. We have a very forceful group and if last night was any indication, DDC may be facing an insurmountable negative force. Thank you for reading my comments.

<p>I am very concerned about the impact such a large facility would have on the preserve and the adjacent neighborhood. Gateway is already an area of very high visitation, and despite the project's best efforts to mitigate overuse and increased traffic, it seems impossible to me to sustain a much larger population of visitors than currently exists. I do not support the project moving forward.</p>
<p>I attended the community outreach meeting on April 21. I was previously under the impression that there would be a public vote on placing the DDC on the preserve. I was quite stunned to learn that the DDC seems to be a "done deal" without the input of those who "own" the preserve, the taxpayers. All bases seem to be covered, site chosen, architect search, partnerships formed as well as the vision of countless folks tromping through what sounds to me like tourist attraction.</p> <p>As a taxpayer and hiker in the preserve I am very happy so far with the trailheads that are accessible and their design; wonderful job. But that's enough. One of the speakers commented something along the lines of folks will want to "spend the day there (the DDC)." To me that means more buildings, food, parking, lights, noise. I am somewhat horrified to envision this.</p> <p>I am not opposed to the DDC; I am opposed to the location. The project does not belong on the pristine, quiet, sensitive environment of the McDowells and the surrounding area, destroying flora and fauna and shrinking even more the area of the animals that live there. Open land is becoming so scarce we need to guard what little is left.</p> <p>Scottsdale has become obscenely built up and this is yet another example. Please leave the desert alone. Please focus on other locations. Thank you.</p>
<p>I believe education is the way to conservation and preservation. The more we know and understand about the world around us, the better we are able to care for it. Thank you for all you do.</p>
<p>I believe this project should be put to a vote by Scottsdale voters. It feels like the project is a grand idea of a few people but not supported by most of our residents given the pressing needs for our financial resources in other areas.</p>
<p>I can support any/all of the above objectives as long as:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The DDC is NOT built within the Preserve. Put it on other city-owned land or on private land OUTSIDE the Preserve 2. The final project---size, cost, operating projections, etc.---is put to a PUBLIC VOTE so all residents of Scottsdale have the opportunity to determine if this is what they want or not.
<p>I can't wait to learn from this amazing addition to Scottsdale's cachet!</p>
<p>I did not check any of the items because they are ALL essential to what I believe the DDC could be.</p>
<p>I disagree entirely with the concept of the project. I would like to know when this is going to be voted on by the taxpayers.</p>
<p>I do not support the construction of the DDC. I believe it will change the character of the Preserve and nearby areas, where I am a resident. At the recent Town Hall meeting in April, it was mentioned the City Council has the final approval. A project of this potential impact must be allowed to be approved by a direct vote of the residents of Scottsdale.</p>
<p>I do not support the plans at the current location!</p>
<p>I do not think this is needed, nor want to support this or pay for it. It currently provides a nice space for me to go to get away from traffic, enjoy nature and I don't see any extra need for tons more people, traffic or intrusion to be there.</p>

I DO NOT WANT a grand tourist attraction. The preserve is already a Scottsdale "point of pride." The preserve is special because it is as it is -- quiet, peaceful, and unspoiled. Please do not go with the typical evolution that befalls special places--i.e. developers come in with ways to "make it more special" and "enhance the experience", and pretty soon it is constantly busy with activity and crowds of people, who "will want lunch" (another example of an already-determined outcome). The argument was made that the perimeters are already "exposed". Well, let's not "over"expose them. Another argument: research and education are already happening in other preserves/places (so why not at Gateway?) That's true! The Desert Botanical Garden is a perfect and wonderfully appropriate example. There is such a thing as market saturation. And, if Scottsdale wants to promote such things in Scottsdale, that's fine--just not at the Gateway Trailhead. There is NO REASON all the activities promoted during the community conversation I attended cannot happen in a different location--even across the street, with or without green buildings. And research can certainly be done even as the preserve currently exists; ASU and other institutions/scholars do it all the time in such places already. The cost of the DDC as is apparently being envisioned by the planning committees will be born in part by the public. And, re: private donations, the DDC will be in competition with MIM, the Museum of the West, and an untold number of other cultural institutions that need money. Pretty soon, the public and donors get weary. Let's rest; let's let the desert be the desert, and promote it in that way. Let's let our current desert education/research venues do the job, or help enhance them in their current locations. If the DDC must be at Gateway, let it be low-key and minimal. That is what will serve the desert, its plants and animals and all those who look to the preserve as a way to maintain their sanity.

I do not want the Desert Discovery Center to be built.

I do NOT want the Discovery Center in the Preserve, it is NOT a Park, it is a Preserve.

When I pay taxes for a preserve I expect it to say that way... DO NOT WANT DDC in the preserve.

I do not want the preserve in p reserve land. Put it in a place around south Scottsdale, closer to access to the botanical garden and the Zoo. Those are established educational venues. I do realize they are not in Scottsdale, but there is every reason to have a desert education project combining zoo and garden venues and the the desert discovery center. The DDC could be placed so it had easy access to old town.

I don't believe the DDC should be constructed...the preserve should remain preserved. Encroachment on to preserved lands erodes confidence in the community that preserved lands will be preserved. If a DDC is needed (which I don't believe it is), then it should be built on land that is not designated as a preserve. Allowing development on preserved land sets the precedent going forward that other land designated as preserved could in fact be developed. That is a poor precedent and devalues that status of preserve that was created to protect these beautiful mountain areas.

I dont want this project, I will vote against the politicians forcing it on us.

I fully support the center as resource for our community, the next generation and visitors.

I fully support the concept for this wonderful addition for residents of Scottsdale and enhance opportunity for tourists to experience the desert in a different way.

<p>I have a REAL Concern with the way in which you all are trying to market this as an educational and research center. You're going to build commercial buildings on beautiful desert land that has always been a "preserve". Why not leave it as a preserve? Where will the wildlife go? They will be forced into our neighborhoods and eventually become Extinct. What is wrong with the government? Greed. That's the problem. All you see are dollar signs and not what's best for the wildlife and our community. We educate our children and visitors on the beautiful Mcdowell mountains and enjoy our days and weekends that we get to enjoy the mountain by hiking and being one with nature. Why do you all feel the need to change this? We've had a light and noise ordinance in this area for years and now that's going to be lifted? We have chosen to live here for the peace and being away from the hustle and bustle of Scottsdale. Please do not take this away from the wildlife and from this community.</p>
<p>I have not selected any options from above because I feel DDC should NEVER come up on preserve land.</p>
<p>I have to say this survey, even in the way it is written and presented, makes a resident feel that there is little to no say provided to our residents. I think there should be some boxes that allow us to indicate that the preserve is an educational and enjoyable resource, as it exists today. Multi-media exhibits, venues for large gatherings etc, regardless of how much they educate about the desert, should not be built IN the preserve, but another nearby location.</p>
<p>I hope it will be funded!</p>
<p>I know this project although they claim will not increase property tax, will cost the Scottsdale property owners. You have put the cart before the horse, there is no funds to pay for such a huge project now, so you keep pushing it as if all the residents approve of being taxed again.</p>
<p>I pray deeply that DDC fails to come to fruition.</p>
<p>I strongly feel a project of this size and scope should be brought to the citizens of Scottsdale for a public vote. This decision should not be made unilaterally by 7 city council members. I also strongly feel that the DDC should NOT be built IN the Preserve. Put it on other city-owned land, or on private land, in close proximity to the Preserve. But the "PRESERVE MEANS PRESERVE".</p>
<p>I think additional building in the area is unnecessary and would ruin the integrity and overall feel of the entire wild area. It's already a travesty, the amount of development that has occurred both in the Preserve and up the slopes of the mountains themselves since I moved to the area in 2000.</p>
<p>I think an interpretive center at the Gateway would be an ideal way for residents and visitors to learn to be more sustainably.</p>
<p>I think it's a wonderful concept and will position Scottsdale as a leader in desert preservation and conservation, while also offering both locals and tourists the opportunity to experience and interact with our desert environment.</p>
<p>I think making this too much of an entertainment facility will take away from the true beauty and simplicity of the desert</p>
<p>I think the appreciation of the desert is key to developing Scottsdale as a progressive, sustainable city, and getting people to understand and appreciate what a unique environment we live in is part of that. The DDC has an opportunity to become part of Scottsdale's identity and to move us forward and away from the culture of resorts with large pools and golf courses. I hope it will achieve this and not be overly cautious in the process but have the courage to try something inventive!</p>
<p>I think the concept is a terrible idea. The point of a preserve is to keep the land PRESERVED. This would destroy the desert, upset the ecosystem, and probably be ugly to look at. Scottsdale has so little desert left, and the city is trying to destroy the remaining for a cheap chance at extra revenue. The Discovery Center would violate current rules in place for the land and should not be allowed to move forward.</p>
<p>I think the current plan does a disservice to what the preserve truly represents</p>

<p>I think the DDC is a idea whose time has come. Scottsdale has saved 30% of its land area, to become a steward of the unique resource that is the Preserve. But preservation of the desert shouldn't stop with setting land aside. We should expend our resources to understand and enhance that resource for generations to come.</p>
<p>I think the idea of a DDS for Scottsdale is a wonderful idea but do not feel it should be located INSIDE the Preserve which would cause land that is presently PRESERVED be bulldozed and used for a facility that can be located elsewhere possibly near West World so not far from the Preserve but not in it.</p>
<p>I think this would be a great addition to the Preserve as long as it is not too large & draws too much traffic to the area affecting the neighboring home values</p>
<p>I would like to preserve the preserve and not build in the preserve.</p>
<p>I'd rather not see this project develop as I believe it will bring unwanted traffic and noise pollution to the neighborhood. I see this discouraging me from visiting the preserve on a regular basis due to increased traffic and the potential cost of entry. As it is now, I enjoy visiting because I can park easily, freely enter the Preserve and go for a hike or run uninhibited. With this project, I fear all of that will change.</p>
<p>If I see something great I want to show others I do not want it to vanish - maybe one area that is always changing. Hands on to hell with high tech we have enough of that already</p>
<p>If the plan goes forward in the Gateway location, then the DDC should be closed when the Preserve closes: no evening programming! I have heard nothing proposed for the DDC that would not be just as well done off the Preserve on other city property.</p>
<p>If we are to leave the preserve "walking away respecting, valuing and connecting with the desert", having the "DDC respect neighbors – human and wildlife", and inspire the next generation to care for their environment", then we really should be leaving it in it's most natural state. The wildlife and plants can't take any additional encroachment on their home. The neighbors want to maintain a peaceful, quiet, natural, limited light and limited traffic pollution environment into which they moved. We want to show the next generation that life isn't always about the hustle and bustle, about money and tourism. We want to show them with our actions (not just our words) that life is about slowing down, living in the moment, having gratitude, helping others, caring for the earth, and living in balance and harmony with our surroundings.</p>
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<p>I'm excited about the concept. Thank you</p>
<p>I'm not against the concept of DDC, I'm against the location. I will not be voting for any council members who are behind the DDC. Nor will I be voting for Mayor Lane again.</p>

I'm not sure my previous responses made it, so I'll summarize. First and foremost, the DDC must be customer friendly, encouraging visitors from other parts of the U.S. and the world. It must add value to the Preserve and with an emphasis on education and research, with the promotion of Scottsdale and the Preserve's history as a byproduct. There is a lot of competition for tourist visits and a scenic location is extremely important. Offering a variety of tours is a way of augmenting exhibits with content and activities that supports the tour's theme. Tours can also be added, deleted, and changed based on customer demand. The DDC should present information related to Scottsdale's Sonoran Desert but also global subjects related to deserts, such as climate change, water, adapting to desert environments, etc. .

Interesting how you only listed positives for community impact, educational opportunities and visitor experience. I will give you an example of a negative for each. Community impact: Will increase traffic, pollution, and build unsightly structures that are unnecessary. Educational opportunity: Will be opportunity for all to see how building too many buildings is the opposite of nature preserve. Visitor experience: Visitors will learn to fight this type of nonsense in their own neighborhoods after witnessing the desecration of our beautiful preserve. In Summary: THIS IS THE WORST IDEA EVER. A PRESERVE IS EXACTLY THAT. LETS PRESERVE IT AND NOT DESTROY ANY MORE PLANTS, LETS NOT INCREASE HUMAN TRAFFIC ON NATURES LAND. THE LIZARDS, SNAKES, BIRDS, SMALL MAMMALS DO NOT WANT ANYMORE OF THEIR LAND TAKEN AWAY TO SATISFY SOME POLITICIAN TAKING A PAYOUT.

It is an opportunity unique to Scottsdale to offer people of all ages from all over the world a life changing learning experience in the spectacular setting of the Preserve - a gift from the City to its citizens and the world that only Scottsdale can give

It would be a huge disservice to the community and the environment to take money away from other opportunities such as schools and education. Discovering the desert should be done while hiking and enjoying the actual outdoors, not going into a building or center.

it would be a wonderful facility that leverages Scottsdale's investment and brings tourists from all over the world and allows locals to experience the beautiful sonoran desert.

It's time for something this bold. Look at the Museum for the West and all of the good it has done for downtown. We need this now. Not in another 20 years!

Just as we do not need all of the apartments, condos, and tall buildings, we do not need this center at all. This form asking for input is worthless since it does not ask the question if we want it or not. It is time the City actually listen to its citizens.

Keep it low keyDefinitely NO AMPHITHEATER!!!!!!

Keep the size within the context of the neighborhood

Long talked about community idea it is time to implement for the benefit of future generations

Love what it can do in terms of exposure and education.

Many of the items listed are consistent with a world class center...but the scope concerns me, bus loads of kids, the level of activities, etc. This has to be an architectural gem...stunning, but natural at the same time.

Most of the above ideas have merit. My family and I are not opposed to a DDC being constructed in Scottsdale with these concepts in mind, but we are absolutely opposed to building it on the Gateway area location within the preserve. Please listen to the very people who have supported and paid for the preserve from its beginning and choose a location other than within the preserve boundary.

Much too costly; I am opposed to it altogether

Natural space is so precious. Rent office space nearby if you want to educate people. Don't you see the irony in further carving up the desert so you can tell people how important it is to protect it?!
Need to define focus... is it for tourists (mass foot traffic) or for education (quality foot traffic)?
Needs to be of the earth, maybe rammed earth. Lots of shade both natural and structural. Lots of seating within various settings for observation. An easy stroll loop with lots of good stuff for those who can't or don't have time to hike.
None of these make sense. You will be destroying the desert preserve. Leave the preserve as is.
Now is the time.
One example that has stood the test of time in the name of conservationism, community impact, educational opportunities and visitor experience is the FLW Talieson. I'd like the DDC concept to pursue this low impact direction. The number of partners and options listed under the Environmental/Conservation Considerations, Community Impact, Educational Opportunities and Visitor Experience appears to be all things to all people. The idea of buses with people travelling to look at exhibits and watch multi-media productions at Gateway Trailhead is upsetting. Another example, the Grand Canyon Park situated the IMAX in the woods away from other commercial and sight seeing venues. I attended the meeting and the presenters are passionate about respecting the land and so I hope as the process begins to unfold there will be a way to keep the community updated with renderings and what partners you want and what they want.
Overall I don't support the concept, but I expect it will move forward. I would like to see the above addressed as it is planned.
Please be proactive in engaging the community in the evaluation process.
Please be respectful of residents. We have seen dramatic and catastrophic decreases in our home values already and cannot tolerate additional negative influences (we already have the proposed Great Heart athletic fields going in down the street - which will also add noise, traffic and pollution.)
PLEASE CHOOSE ANOTHER LOCATION FOR THE DESERT DISCOVERY CENTER!!! WE LIVE IN DC RANCH BECAUSE IT IS SAFE, QUIET, FAMILY ORIENTED, AND HAS LITTLE TO NO TRAFFIC. THE DESERT DISCOVERY CENTER WILL CHANGE ALL OF THAT AND HAVE ENORMOUS IMPACT ON OUR WAY OF LIFE!
Please do not let the NIMBYs and tea partiers slow down this project that is so important to our children. Thanks
Please don't make this a corporate feel-good status symbol.
please dont pave over our Preserve
Please don't ruin the preserve by commercializing it and losing all the land that houses the animals. We don't need all these buildings to educate the public, we need educated employees of the preserve to lead hikes and learning programs at the trailhead. It's a preserve, preserve it!
Please don't turn the Desert Discovery Center into a big business enterprise, we have the rest of Scottsdale for that. Keep it simple and natural and don't burden Scottsdale taxpayers with a high maintenance facility that will eventually raise taxes and give this part of our natural environment to business.
Please keep our preserve a preserve!! WE don't need 18 buildings, increased traffic and a very expensive project.
Please put the DDC outside of the preserve!!
Really a great opportunity for the people who live here and our visitors.
Say NO to the DDC
Say NO to the DDC
see above.

<p>Seems like group is more into being recognized globally than preserving the preserve. Currently not a fan of the 104th Street parking area. It is not designed as a real parking spot and it seems it would be more economical to not have it. All it does is move overflow parking into the neighborhood on 104th.</p>
<p>So looking forward to this wonderful Center becoming a reality.</p>
<p>Special programs and learning opportunities, such as rituals, Native American traditions, wildlife presentations should be available during the tourist season to entice visits.</p>
<p>Still not understanding the "need" here. The only good idea I've seen in all of this is to partner with ASU/UA on an "arid environment center" or similar. Just don't put the center in the preserve. When I do go to Gateway, I read the visitor comments. Many say "thanks for preserving this beautiful desert environment", but none of them say "please remove some of this open space and build a large commercial structure".</p>
<p>Stop this project now!!!</p>
<p>The building of a Desert Disneyland is inconsistent with preserving the desert. I do not believe that the Scottsdale citizenry wants their financial resources squandered in this way. You need to start listening to the voters and not just the small handful of people who seem to have some vested financial interest in this white elephant of a project.</p>
<p>The concept must be much more clearly defined and specific as to goals , mission, funding for construction and ongoing expenses.</p>
<p>The DDC concept truly opens new doors for everyone to experience the Sonoran Desert on so many levels. It's important for our community to enjoy what we hold as a vital component of living in the greatest city in the country. Scottsdale AZ.</p>
<p>The DDC must respect the integrity of the Preserve by being located OUTSIDE the Preserve and then orient visitors to experiences inside the Preserve to further their knowledge, such as interpretative trails and steward led educational hikes, that are totally compatible with the Preserve Ordinance and that already exist. The Preserve is the gem, the ultimate experience, and it should not be degraded by putting a bunch of large buildings in the Preserve. The combination of a DDC outside the Preserve with in Preserve educational experiences in the Preserve is the right way to go which solves ALL the problems created by trying to jam it in the Preserve” for the second one.</p>
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<p>The DDC must respect the integrity of the Preserve by being located outside the Preserve. The Preserve itself is precious and should remain as true to itself as possible. Let's have buildings or educational experiences in buildings outside the Preserve and let people come into it as a sanctuary.</p>
<p>The DDC provides a incredible opportunity for Scottsdale to showcase something completely unique to Scottsdale. Other communities maximize their resources to attract visitors. Our resource, which no one else in the world can claim, is our amazing Preserve. It is important to educate people about our fabulous Sonoran Desert and the DDC would create a great desert experience for both locals and visitors. The McDowell Sonoran Preserve deserves to be showcased, and the DDC will help enhance our community and tourism industry.</p>
<p>The DDC should be located at the Gateway. It should provide easy access for residents and tourist to explore the Sonoran Desert. It does not make any sense to have the DDC in a location not adjacent to the desert. Imagine if the Monterey Bay Aquarium was located inland or other museums not located in its habitat.</p>
<p>The DDC should be located on land that is not part of the preserve. If it must be on the preserve it should be smaller in scale and focused on education not tourism and should not be large enough to require additional parking or cause any significant increase in traffic or noise especially on weekends on in the evening hours.</p>
<p>The DDC will create the missing link between visitors and residents to engage and discover the true sustainable beauty of th Sonoran desert, like nowhere else on Earth</p>
<p>The eventual scale of the facility is secondary to its LOCATION. Of 3 locations proposed by the North Scottsdale community for DDC, the one "given" by the City Council is by far the worst: for the local views, people, values, and critters. While there is merit to the DDC being adjacent to the Preserve, the Preserve's charter clearly prohibits large, occupied, and highly trafficked facilities with fees, dining and gift shop concessions like the DDC. The DDC location should be at the very edge of the Preserve on land that is properly zoned (similar to Phoenix's Musical Instrument Museum) for such a facility. This entire matter MUST be put to voters, not the City Council, to decide.</p>
<p>The lists above are self serving and incomplete...I can't select a single box. The DDC plan is anachronistic and should be cancelled (or at best relocated). Any construction in the preserve is antithetical to preservation.</p> <p>Take an honest look at the ever widening trails due to foot traffic, mountain bicycles, dogs(?). Pardon this indelicate suggestion but if you're honest you know we have a dog dropping problem...should we ban dogs from the preserve or rename the McDowells to the McDogshmit Mountains.</p>
<p>The preserve does so many of the things listed above the way it is now. It needs NOTHING and we don't want the traffic or visitors impacting it's beauty or our neighborhood.</p>
<p>The Preserve is a unique opportunity created by many local residents for the enjoyment of many local and non-local visitors, and should be considered a Scottsdale treasure as well as an educational opportunity.</p>

<p>The Preserve is not a Park. Please place the DDC away from existing hikers, bikers, equestrians, etc.. Encourage visits to the Preserve but please don't mix these very different uses.</p>
<p>The Preserve needs to stay EXACTLY that, A PRESERVE!!! Building a DDC anywhere on Preserved land is completely irresponsible and will ruin our beautiful pristine desert and wildlife habitat!</p> <p>Find a different location OUTSIDE of the PRESERVE!!! Try the Indian Reservation next to the butterflies and dolphins since they have already ruined that land. Or better yet, tear down the car dealerships that ruined the Tom Chauncey ranch!</p>
<p>The Preserve where the Desert Discovery Center may be built is not an area for this construction concept. The area is pristine and natural and is used by so many people for this reason. The idea of building multiple buildings is totally against its nature and the Desert Discovery Center should be built outside of the Preserve!</p>
<p>The proposed location for such a large, invasive project would be detrimental to our peaceful area. It seems counterintuitive to destroy the desert preserve to build a giant center that would "teach about respecting the preserve."</p>
<p>The residents are being very clear that they do not want this. This should not be in the Preserve, it should not be funded by the City. It should be a private venture, not in the Preserve. I am opposed to the DDC, do not want it, do not want to pay for, don't want a handout to the tourism industry. I am 100% opposed to this.</p>
<p>the violation of the integrity of the preserve by building man made structures will detract from the pristine seduction of having an unspoiled desert environment to go to.....however, ddc ought to be built at NO Scottsdale tax expense- private endowment!!, and, it be non profit so its benefits go directly to the betterment of the surrounding preserve.....</p>
<p>The word Preserve itself should give credence to other locations. It will not draw visitors to Scottsdale simply because it is there</p>
<p>There should be no DDC.</p>
<p>These goals do not take local neighbors into consideration. Their reason for making this area home will be disrupted in this process. It is unfair to those already connected to this environment.</p>
<p>This "Concept" is being rammed down the citizen's throats with no real discerning views allowed or being collected. Everyone we speak to is vehemently opposed. I have yet to meet anyone outside of the people doing the study who favor this huge destruction of the desert. Perhaps that is why we have become so opposed to it. It is un-American to censor and bully public opinions that are opposing. We cannot in good conscience support a group that has been so heavy handed and unethical.</p>
<p>This is BIASED SURVEY. I can't even answer a question because to do so would mean I agree with it being built in the preserve. This is a CRIME. Anything for a buck. It is disgusting that the City Council is moving forward with this. It is criminal that the City is using our money to contract with the DDCCS -- seriously? They name their non profit the same name as the project? To confuse people no less. I am completely opposed to this.</p>
<p>This is a terrible waste of money. The DDC will have a horrible impact on the Preserve. I am contacting all our friends to rally against the DDC. Stop DDC now!</p>
<p>This is all a sick, wrong and twisted concept that needs to be reversed and STOPPED right now in its tracks! It is not an improvement in any way shape or form. It worsens the conditions for all that comes into play. Really, no good is coming from putting a desert center that is BIG in this preserve at the Gateway! Sure it might be a good idea, but NOT on the preserve at the Gateway!!</p>

<p>This project can be placed elsewhere and direct visitors to enjoy the amazing preserve and gateway visitor center in its current state and beauty. It is too big to be placed in the preserve and is counter intuitive to ideas the preserve intended and sets a poor precedence.</p>
<p>This project is 100% unnecessary and is a tremendous waste of tax dollars. There is no reason to build a "discovery center" about the desert when the actual desert can be experienced right outside its door. As a taxpayer, I would rather see my tax dollars go toward the betterment of existing essential services, most notably schools. It's called a preserve for a reason. Don't ruin a good thing for developer profit.</p>
<p>This project is a huge investment by all Scottsdale residents for our future, the preserve & should be maximized for all to enjoy. Scottsdale has always dreamed big. This is our biggest dream yet. Make it a reality.</p>
<p>This project is gravely important to moving Scottsdale forward. We cannot, as a community, remain unchanged and expect to grow (in regards to new residents and tourists). It is critical that this project is allowed to move forward. We can execute a truly great DDC that will respect the environment and neighbors, while still providing an incredible experience for visitors and locals.</p>
<p>To be honest, I don't see any need to add to the existing facility which is already fantastic and tastefully understated. It seems very unlikely that any significant development project can do anything to improve on what's already there and in my opinion, the downside risk greatly exceeds the upside potential.</p>
<p>To me, it feels like this is a steamroll. Outreach meetings to residents who are opposed seem to be merely a formality. It feels like the decision has already been made; even if residents vocally oppose this, the project will not cease because it has momentum that no local government official has the desire or resolve to stop. That is deeply disappointing and it's a shame that officials sleep at night in spite of the residential discontent.</p>
<p>To promote access to a PRESERVE goes against the purpose for which it was created !</p>
<p>Very pleased with the progress on the DC, as well as the community input</p>
<p>Visionary action by Scottsdale. Now need to ensure sustainability of the commitment</p>
<p>Volunteer led activities and blended signage can do all this without buildings! We already have pride in the preserve and take our visitors there to experience the desert. They all enjoy the beauty of the preserve and walk/hike as far as their 60-70 year old bodies allow. No one needs buidings to inspire their love of nature! Only people looking for a legacy need a building!</p>
<p>We already have the Desert Botannical Garden. Please don't bring heavy traffic into our residential neighborhood in N. Scottsdale. The preserve should be maintained as a preserve and NOT as a commercial venture. We were promised a preserve, not an educational center NOR a tourist attraction. People can get educated through experiences at local libraries, schools, the DBG, or online information if they so desire.</p>
<p>We are buying our dream home in Windate Ranch that is right on Thompson Peak between the Gateway Trail and The Village. I am opposed to the DDC being in that location and it was not disclosed to me when we purchased the lot (not your issue). However, after attending the meeting last night, I believe you are in violation of the codes.</p>
<p>We don't want the DDC at the Gateway or anywhere else in the Preserve and and will do everything we can to stop it.</p>
<p>We have a wonderful Desert Botabicsl Garden. Replicating it will be a waste.</p>

We have the Az-Sonoran Desert Museum in Tucson, so are we trying to replicate what they do or how are we different? We don't need to make this the "end all be all" to educate everyone about the desert and conservation, nor do we need the DDC to be renowned as a global research center. Regarding education, it should augment what is being done in terms of education in Scottsdale schools or at ASU, but not be the primary vehicle for educating the visitor. For local residents, it needs to be a place where people can hike, bike, etc and be proud of our environmental surroundings. Lastly, I would be interested in a better understanding of how the DDC will be operated, as this is always an issue for taxpayers and users.

We hope this comes to fruition soon. It has been planned long enough and we hope it is implemented soon. It will be a tremendous addition to our community, region and state. Understanding our environment is critical for positive and peaceful growth.

We should be taking a minimalist approach similar to the CaveCreek regional park that would include one building to house some of the above displays etc. A 17 building plan affects the flood plain in a huge way and will add a tremendous amount of traffic to the area. This plan is the antithesis of the definition of a "preserve". The meeting we attended did not address costs, revenue projections from the project or the additional fees collected from the "bed" fee from our local hotels. I also find it distressing that the council approved going this direction on a consent agenda vote. The size and scope of this project should make all decisions as an agenda item where both council members and residents can comment upon the plans and demand a proposed budget. It is quite obvious that the council is moving ahead with the plan without providing feedback on the items I mentioned above. This is simply bad government. Please reconsider how we approach a project like this and stop it before it is too late.

What is wrong with leaving the preserve as preserve? I believe that buildings destroy the very nature we have desired to preserve with huge amounts of tax support to acquire the preserve land. We will be trashing and destroying the Gateway Trailhead with buildings, litter, traffic, congestion, etc. The commercial buildings envisioned should be at a cite elsewhere away from the preserve, perhaps near the Highway 101 and Bell Road for the easiest access.

When sold a new home in Toll Bros. Windgate Ranch community we were told that the preserve would never be developed. This project should be completed in another area of the preserve such as near the Lost Dog Trail head @ Shea / 124th St where its impact on traffic congestion is negligible since its is already served by a 6 lane boulevard.

While seemingly a good idea for commerce and tourism, I am NOT in support of this project as it is a neighborhood, not an appropriate area in terms of location. Many of us moved to this area for the peace and quiet of the neighborhood and to enjoy the beauty of the area. This is a multi-million dollar project that violates the written purpose of what the land was bought for. The city is projecting it will bring another 400,000 vehicles to the area and will have an outdoor amphitheater, parking for 800 cars. This is not the quiet, enjoyable neighborhood that so many of us purchased homes in. This is not the neighborhood that is going to be kept pristine for the local community, to include the wildlife that have already been stripped of their homes and wander in our neighborhoods for lack of a natural habitat. Where will they go now? It appears this is motivated out of greed and politics and not concern for our beautiful neighborhood. Please give consideration to another location, if at all. Thank you.

Why can't visitors visit a Center OUTSIDE of the Preserve? Visitors to such a place could then be directed to the Preserve for the REAL experience. Right there with nature - nothing commercial!! There are wonderful trails with stewards that can lead educational hikes - No buildings to interfere with nature and the experience. Any building would only degrade the beauty of nature. The Preserve itself is the experience - the "cherry on top" after visiting a DDC that is NOT smack dab in the middle! There is an OUTSIDE and an INSIDE to this Preserve. Please keep the DDC where it should be - which is to inside the Preserve.

Why not locate the Center away from the proposed location and have visitors educate themselves at the newly located center and then go to the trails for the experience. There should be no building of one or more buildings in the proposed area as it will only downgrade the experience of the trails. There is no need to ruin the preserve with buildings. Use the existing ordinances with steward led educational hikes. PRESERVE THE PRESERVE.

With the lack of transparency in the process so far, it seems that the DDC is being done to the local residents, not for them. For that reason, I am suspicious of these plans as they are described in very general terms with no ability for those directly impacted to understand fully what the impacts might be. It seems that someone has ambitions to put themselves on the map by churning up the desert to develop a tourist attraction. I ask, why is bigger better in the public context? Why does one want to run the largest public university instead of the best? Why the largest desert visitor's center instead of the best? The Desert Botanical Garden does a great job of many of the things that appear to be proposed justifications for this massive development project. I ride and hike the trails in the area. They are often crowded when the weather permits. To add this massive attraction will likely increase visitors and trail users greatly. The visitors will cause additional traffic in a primarily residential area. The added burden of so many more trail users will choke the trails to the point of being unusable for horseback riders, mountain bikers, trail runners, and anyone else that wishes to move at more than about 3 miles per hour. I choose to continue to live in this area because I can be on usable trails within 5 minutes of leaving my front door, all without a car. It seems likely that those days are going to soon come to an end because of ambitions to have the "biggest" something, regardless of the impact and the cost to taxpayers.

Worried about the size and scope of the project. Would cause huge traffic problems

would prefer it not be built here at all

Please note the following entries were duplicated several times within the survey results

Comment Received	Number of Occurrences
Citizens dont want the DDC!!	65
DDC no no	61
DDC=no no no!!!	57
dont want this project at all	5
I do not want this wasteful project	66
I don't want the Discovery Center at all	63
NO DDC in Scottsdale	60
NO DDC no NO!!!	68
NO DDC!	81
NO NO NO DDC	67
NO to the DDC!	62
no! this project is a handout to Developers	59
\$300 wasted per residen - no to the Desert Discovery Center	71
Desert Disney Center is a special-interest handout, NO!!!!	75
NO DDC no Korte, no Klapp, no Lane	60
NO DDC, vote out Klapp, Lane and Korte	64
Korte, Lane and Klapp are bought by the Tourism industry	93
No to Lane and his Developer Cronies	61
no ddc in our Preserve	62
NO DDC in the Preserve	55

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Zip Code of Survey Respondents:

85007 – 1
85014 – 1
85016 – 1
85018 – 3
85023 – 1
85028 – 1
85050 – 1
85207 – 1
85224 – 1
85250 – 74
85251 – 92

85252 – 79
85253 – 7
85254 – 68
85255 – 202
85256 – 81
85257 – 86
85258 – 116
85259 – 86
85260 – 109
85261 – 71
85262 – 98

85266 – 102
85267 – 77
85271 – 101
85327 – 1
85331 – 2
85383 – 1
85749 – 1
86301 – 1
87506 – 1
90403 – 1
92647 – 1

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