



TOWN OF CAVE CREEK GENERAL PLAN NEWSLETTER

THE FUTURE OF OUR WESTERN HERITAGE

VOLUME 1, EDITION 5

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NEWSLETTER PURPOSE: TO INFORM AND EDUCATE

Having received and considered public input since January 2017, the Planning Agency (Planning Commission) has prepared Draft #1 of the proposed 2018 General Plan. Draft #1 is now ready for a Public hearing and is available on the Town website at:
<http://www.cavecreek.org/DocumentCenter/View/2890>

The first public hearing by the Planning Commission will be:

- Date: Thursday, January 18, 2018
- Location: Town Hall Council Chambers
- Time: 7:00 PM

The public is encouraged to review Draft #1 of the Plan prior to the meeting in order for their comments to be targeted and relevant.



PREFACE

People who decided to live in Cave Creek feel it is a unique place. No doubt each of us has different reasons for feeling that way. We do share many of them. We appreciate and value our western heritage. Explaining what that means can be difficult. For most of us “western” means a context where nature dominates the transformations any one of us might make to the natural environment. We also respect the unique character of the southwestern landscape, plants and animals. We want to protect our dramatic views and night skies. Our landscapes are open and characterized by natural trails, publically available open spaces, wildlife corridors and limited paved areas. These are some of the hallmarks of the natural environment in Cave Creek that we all cherish and seek to protect. We recognize how they enhance the quality of our lives. The outdoor lifestyles such as equestrian, hiking and biking activities that we seek to promote are different in this context than more dense environments. In the more urban settings, the people’s transformations dominate the natural environment and outdoor activities must adjust to them. In Cave Creek we accept and value our natural setting so what we do can be complemented by that setting.
Submitted by: Dr. V. Kerry Smith

THE GENERAL PLAN

Cave Creek's General Plan is intended to represent the citizens' vision and values for the development of the Town during the next ten years. This vision is expressed as goals, objectives, and policy/action statements to guide the Town Council and Town staff. In the process they may identify areas where ordinances, codes, technical guidelines or policy changes are warranted or where existing practices should change. Overall, there are a few general principles that unify what the General Plan identifies as values Cave Creek citizens want to promote during the next ten years.

The people want to be assured that Cave Creek has:

- A reliable water system providing abundant, clean water;
- An efficient sewer and wastewater treatment system;
- A low density rural residential environment;
- Dark skies, a quiet environment and protection of views;
- Public Open Spaces for their enjoyment and recreation;
- A robust, vibrant Historic Town Core entertainment and tourist district contributing revenue to the Town;
- A safe, reliable transportation network system that facilitates use by automobiles, horses, pedestrians, hikers and bikers with well-maintained streets and trails;
- Commercial areas outside the Historic Town Core that provide complementary business activities to the Historic Town Core offering citizens services and goods they can use, as well as, revenue needed for operation of the Town; and,
- A well-managed, efficient Town government responsive to their concerns.

The Planning Agency (Planning Commission) has used an open process to develop the Plan and has worked diligently to reflect the citizens' desires in the 2018 General Plan. The process to develop the 2018 General Plan has been conducted in compliance with applicable Arizona Revised Statutes (ARS).

The General Plan is a recommendation from the Planning Agency to the Town Council. The Town Council can accept the General Plan, as recommended, reject it, modify it, keep the expired General Plan, or write their own Plan. Once approved by the Town Council, the General Plan is submitted as a resolution to the qualified voters of Cave Creek for ratification or rejection. Once ratified by the voters, revisions may be made by a Council resolution.

The General Plan is not a law, code or ordinance; it is a resolution required by two Arizona Revised Statutes (ARS), ARS 9-461.05 and ARS 9-461.06.

ARS 9-461.05 covers the General Plan authority, or its requirement to exist, and its scope, or elements. All the Elements in the 2018 General Plan comply with the law.

ARS 9-461.06 provides for changes or modification to the Plan that constitute amendments and major amendments; it also addresses the expiration of the Plan and the method of re-adoption. The 2018 General Plan complies with the requirements of ARS 9-461.06.

The General Plan is supported, and actualized by the codes, ordinances, agreements and technical guidelines found in Appendix A, Acknowledged Documents. These Acknowledged Documents are not adopted as part of the 2018 General Plan. Rather they are affirmed and recognized to exist as mechanisms that help to facilitate the goals, objectives and policy/action statements expressed in the Plan.



For comments and/or suggestions, please contact the Town of Cave Creek Planning Commission at icordwell@cavecreek.org