



GATES PASS AREA NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

"Our Mission is to act in the interest of the members on issues such as limiting commercial development, reducing litter and crime, and retaining environmental quality."

TO: Tucson City Mayor and Council

REFERENCE: Restoration of a Sonoran Desert Park on the former A-Mountain Landfill

Dear Mayor and Tucson City Council Members,

The Gates Pass Area Neighborhood Association (GPANA) was established in 1987 and currently represents 240 members on the west side of Tucson/Pima County. Our mission is to represent our members to limit commercial or inappropriate development, reduce litter and crime and retain the rural environmental quality on the west side of the Tucson area. Our members have a special relationship with the land, animals and culture related to the area we live in. Many members have a view from their homes of A-Mountain and all the members value this area. The area where an old landfill is located at the foot of A-Mountain is the last open space where our valuable saguaros touch the Santa Cruz River. We feel strongly that protecting this historic landscape and its unique history is extremely important.

Gates Pass Area Neighborhood Association feels strongly that the protection of open space and the preservation and restoration of this historic cultural landscape as a proposed Sonoran Desert Park, is an important part of Tucson's Birthplace. As the most culturally and spiritually significant portion of Tucson's Birthplace, this area should remain in its entirety as essential open space.

Any consideration as to the use of this historical land should:

- Value the historic legacy of the landscape, viewscape, and land uses of the property
- Avoid further gentrification and maintain long-term residence
- Address the scarcity of green space and trees within Tucson's urban core
- Mitigate heat generation, provide shaded urban cooling, improve air quality
- Provide outdoor spaces for health benefits, and improved quality of life
- Suppress additional traffic noise and disturbance to neighborhoods
- Provide learning opportunities for youth from adjacent and nearby neighborhoods
- Offer learning opportunities for visitors, and the public at large
- Offer job opportunities for youth to maintain vegetation and steward space
- Reflect community values as repeatedly expressed by Tucson voters (Prop 400, etc.) to support historic, cultural, and ecological restoration
- Maintain solar access for neighborhood homes

Gates Pass Area Neighborhood Association encourages the Mayor and City Council to make this space a protected open space for our community and future generations to enjoy. Protecting this space is protecting the history of Tucson. Please feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions.

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