

Key Points for Your Maricopa County Survey Responses

Recommendations submitted by the New River/Desert Hills Community Association

Maricopa County is asking for input on the Daisy Mountain Area Plan; see <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/newriverID>. **It is important that all of us that live in the Daisy Mountain area provide input and ideas** to Maricopa County for consideration in updating the land use plan known as the **Daisy Mountain Area Plan** (previously called the [New River Area Plan](#)); which includes the unincorporated areas of the communities of New River, Desert Hills, and Anthem. **All public input from the survey (including yours!) will have an impact on the direction the area plan takes in guiding development in our area for at least the next 10 years.**

The county survey asks for input on each of the 9 planning elements (factors) related to the future development of the area. Here are suggestions that the New River/Desert Hills Community Association would like you to consider as you formulate your responses; **which are limited to 500 characters per element.**

LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT

- Preserve the natural rivers, creeks, washes, and arroyos, as well as hillsides and mountains.
- Focus effort to NOT degrade the area's equestrian lifestyle that is currently enjoyed and/or supported by the majority of the New River & Desert Hills residents.
- Develop strategies to preserve and protect Daisy Mountain as a public preserve.
- Restrict commercial development (outside of Anthem) to only along Carefree Highway and along I-17 from Carefree Highway to New River Road.
- Develop short- and long-term strategies to preserve and protect the 1-mile square parcel (T6NR3E Sec 32) bounded by: Cloud, Joy Ranch, 7th St & 7th Ave, as a community-service/public equestrian recreation area with non-motorized trails that connect with Maricopa Regional Trail and the Phoenix Sonoran Desert Preserve Trails.
- Encourage the preservation of the scenic qualities of the area including the near-by and distant views of New River Mountains, Table Mesa, Daisy Mountain, Pyramid Peak, Gavilan Peak, Bradshaw Mountains, Apache Peak, Elephant Butte, and others in the review of applications for land development.
- Ensure public access to public lands in relationship to any development plans.
- Evaluate new urban land uses to identify potentially negative impacts to existing rural land uses, and use mitigation measures when and/or where necessary.
- Support public education about urban/rural land use conflicts and effective mitigation measures.

TRANSPORTATION

- Provide public transit service in the Planning Area. Residents have expressed a desire for access to public transit.
- Provide both bicycle lanes and equestrian paths along Major Arterial roadways allowing for public access to non-motorized trails.
- Preserve and/or create wildlife corridors when upgrading existing or building new roads. Collaborate with Arizona Game and Fish Department to identify and provide for wildlife corridors to reduce animal/vehicle collisions.
- Provide and protect public access around existing regional parks from urban encroachment.

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

- Encourage, support, or provide education on the effects and mitigation measures for ozone.
- Mitigate dust on roads (not necessarily pave).
- Protect vulnerable plant and animal habitat and migration corridors, including within the rivers, creeks, washes, and arroyos.
- Keep our dark skies - enforce the Dark Sky Ordinances.
- Protect ridgelines that create the silhouette of open space that are not broken by development, and therefore contribute to the visual character of the Sonoran Desert.
- Reduce noise impacts of development (traffic, motors, and such).
- Protect our water quality including for those on private wells.
- Monitor groundwater levels to ensure they are not depleted.

ECONOMIC GROWTH & DEVELOPMENT

- Provide entrepreneurial support - includes ensuring robust, universal communication technologies, education, and training necessary to compete in the New Economy.
- Provide or encourage internet/telecommunication companies to provide better internet (speed mainly but quality too).

AREAS SUITABLE FOR FUTURE GROWTH

- Do not allow industrial use.
- Limit commercial development to areas identified in Anthem DMP, Carefree Highway scenic corridor, and I-17 Frontage Road up to New River Road (not north of New River Road).
- Commercial entities should be compatible with the area's scenic Sonoran Desert environment.

PARKS AND OPEN SPACES

- Have interconnected system of preserved natural open spaces to protect wildlife habitat and natural migration patterns.
- Need trail system(s) that maintain the connections to the nearby trails such as Black Canyon National Recreation Trail, Phoenix Sonoran Preserve, Maricopa Regional Trail, and Tonto National Forest Trails.
- Keep I-17 north of New River Road as a scenic corridor without visible commercial development.
- Daisy Mountain open space is needed as a critical component of a healthy community.
- Need for a community park in the Desert Hills community of the DMAP. The Kiwanis Community Park serves the northern community of New River. Arroyo DMP and the Anthem DMP have their own parks, but there's currently no community park for the southern portion of the Daisy Mountain Area also known as Desert Hills.
- Prohibit Billboards.
- Have utility companies to work with local community for optimum locations and design.

WATER (CURRENT AVAILABILITY, FUTURE DEMAND, ETC.)

- Provide education for domestic wells on the uncertainties of having water available and other well concerns.
- Support and encourage efforts to determine the availability of groundwater for wells and potential negative impact that new wells may have on existing wells.
- Ensure that water conservation is included in the design of new development.
- Protect and preserve existing water resources and minimize flood hazards.
- Advocate for legislative change to allow the provision of dedicated resources for evaluation and monitoring of groundwater conditions within the unincorporated Maricopa County area.

ENERGY (EFFICIENT USE, RENEWABLE ENERGY, ETC.)

- Increase energy conservation and energy efficiency in new development.
- Discourage scattered urban development in remote areas.
- Attract solar and other alternative energy research and development to Maricopa County.

COST OF DEVELOPMENT (HOW TO PAY FOR NEW GROWTH)

- Ensure that new development pays its proper and reasonable share of the costs of new infrastructure, services, and other public improvements necessary to support future projected growth.