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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### Memory Park, Scottsdale, Arizona by Friends of the Scenic Drive

**HISTORY:** Located in North Scottsdale, Arizona, the 'Desert Foothills Scenic Drive' is both a landmark and a preservation effort. *Friends of the Scenic Drive*, a corps of volunteers, works to preserve and enhance the Desert Foothills Scenic Drive, which was established by area residents in 1963. Friends are a division of the Greater Pinnacle Peak Association (GPPA), a non-profit 501(c)3 organization founded in 1977. As part of this effort, *Friends is planning for the creation of a 'Memory Park' to capture the history of the Desert Foothills area.*

**SITE:** The 1.7 acre property is on east side of Scottsdale Road just south of Jomax Road. Site is State Lands, being leased from Maricopa County by the City, and has been improved with drive grading and walking trails. There exists a 1968 'Desert Foothills Scenic Drive' identification marker.

**NEW SITE IMPROVEMENTS** are to visually upgrade the existing conditions to attract visitors and locals to learn more about the upper Sonoran Desert; stabilize the existing vegetation/dry washes; and respect the 100' wide open desert setback. Specific improvements are:

- Stabilized decomposed granite drive and 5 parking spaces; 1 van accessible space; and rolled concrete curbing.
- 3 information stations with a pair of 'taupe' colored concrete seating units, and a series of Corten steel educational panels above stone bases to match the existing marker.
- An 'accessible' stabilized decomposed granite loop pathway that goes into the open desert, along the existing dry wash and ties into proposed trails. Along this route there would be seating that is a memorial program; signs would identify the desert plants; and be a passive and contemplative experience.
- Along the pathway is a water element with a pond, spillway and trough for birds and animals; and viewed by nearby seating.
- Maintain the open desert character and not overly enhance the native plant palette. New plant selections could be selected to attract hummingbirds and butterflies to the area.
- Retain all existing large trees, Saguaro Cactus, cacti and shrubs wherever physically possible.
- Materials will be visually compatible with the existing signage marker; be more durable, long lasting and require minimal maintenance; and be environmentally-sensitive.

**CHARACTER:** It will be visually unobtrusive and feel as an integral part of the existing desert character. New improvements will introduce visitors to the unique Sonoran Desert and in a very welcoming, open, educational and stimulating manner. There can be a range of experiences from the conversational interpretative panels to a more quiet retreat with the desert actually surrounding you. *Experience should encourage a connection and meaningful understanding of the desert.*