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PROJECT NARRATIVE

Memory Park

Friends of the Scenic Drive
Scottsdale, Arizona
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The following describes the project context, immediate site, character and materials.

CONTEXT: Property is on Scottsdale Road just south of Jomax Road on the east side in north Scottsdale, Arizona. The site and surroundings include the State Lands to the north, east and south of the project property. It is proposed to be acquired from the State of Arizona for the City of Scottsdale McDowell Mountain Preserve and would enable an uninterrupted trail from Scottsdale Road and into the mountains to the east. Existing single family residential is located further north, east and west beyond the State Lands. City of Phoenix is located across Scottsdale Road to the west. The site and surroundings is a natural open desert, but has been scarred by off-road recreational vehicles use over the years. The existing dry washes have also been used by them. Horses and hiking has also occurred in the area. The overall historic drainage sheet flow is from the northeast to the southwest, but has been interrupted up stream by developments north of the property.

IMMEDIATE SITE: The proposed site is 1.7 acres and most of which is currently being leased by the City of Scottsdale from Maricopa County. Site has no particular zoning, but the parcel further north is zoned R1-70 and the parcels further east and south is R1-43.

Site has been improved in the past with drive grading and various walking trails. Other existing site improvements include a 1968 'Desert Foothills Scenic Drive' identification marker composed of a large field stone base, vertical panel for the lettering and clustering of boulders at each end of the panel. There is a pair of plastered vertical walls that have wall mounted information panels of brushed metal. They each tell the history of the area, plants and animals. An informal trail does extend into the desert and along its path there are plant signs that identify the plant type. New Cholla cacti and trees have been planted to revegetate and stabilize the area.

NEW SITE IMPROVEMENTS

The new site improvements are being provided to:

1. Visually upgrade the existing conditions to attract visitors and locals to learn more about the history of the area and the upper Sonoran Desert.
2. To stabilize the existing vegetation and dry wash banks.
3. Respect the 100' wide open desert setback and not provide vertical structures within it.

The specific site improvements being provided include:

- Asphaltic concrete drive apron off Scottsdale Road.
- Stabilized decomposed granite drive turn around.
- Five parking spaces of stabilized decomposed granite and a series of metal buttons as striping.
- One van accessible parking space of cast in place integral 'taupe' colored concrete with exposed aggregate finish.
- Rolled integrally 'taupe' colored concrete curbing at the drive turn and parking spaces.
- Three prototypical information stations positioned in the desert with two cast in place integral 'taupe' colored concrete seating units, and a series of back to back educational panels of Corten steel and laser cut-out letters/graphics anchored to a steel frame; and mounted to a field stone base to match the existing marker.
- A loop pathway of stabilized decomposed granite that goes into the open desert and along the existing dry wash. Along this route there could be seating units that match the others above and could be part of a memorial program. Signs would also identify the plant materials. It would be a passive, quiet and contemplative experience.
- The new loop pathway would also tie into the City required trail that is just off Scottsdale Road and runs north/south. The loop would also encourage its extension to the proposed trailhead further south, the trail along the power line easement to the southeast and to the subdivision located further north. Where the pathway extends further south and north provide a hitching post to tie-up horses when visiting Memory Park.
- A special feature at the pathway would be a water element with a small raised pond and a spillway that delivers water to a recessed trough for birds and animals. A nearby seating unit would allow a view of this feature.
- City of Scottsdale underground water lines to extend to the water feature and new plant material that requires it temporarily.
- Maintain the open desert character and not overly enhance the plant palette and thickness. Do not introduce non-native species or plants foreign to this specific site. 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.
- Remove the two existing plastered walls and at the existing major sign restore the sign to its original condition.

CHARACTER:

The proposed character will be visually unobtrusive and read as an extension of the existing open 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 more active or 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.

SITE MATERIALS:

Proposed new materials will be visually compatible with the existing signage marker including the field stone, granite boulders and original concrete vertical panel. A palette of natural materials and finishes that are more durable, long lasting and require minimal maintenance are being suggested. Therefore paint, plaster and high maintenance materials are being avoided. All specified materials would be of a 'green' nature and environmentally sensitive, which would lead such improvements to becoming more sustainable.

- Drives, walks and pathways of stabilized decomposed granite.
- Rolled curbing, seating and water feature of integral 'taupe' colored concrete with a heavy power washed finish.
- Accessible parking space of cast in place integral 'taupe' colored concrete with heavy sandblasted or etched 'accessible logo.'
- Educational markers of cast in place concrete with field stone bases and Corten steel panels over framing above.
- Drive turn-around raised island with battered field stone.
- Plant signage, directional signs, accessible parking sign and stop sign of Corten steel on 'wicket' vertical supports.

PROTOTYPE:

Beyond the immediate Memory Park site and related improvements, there is a notion that a series of Memory Parks might extend along the full length of Scottsdale Road. A Conceptual Master Plan of Scottsdale Road identifies approximately fifteen (15) hypothetical sites where a 'Memory Park' might occur and would tell the story of the historical events and surroundings in the immediate site area. A visitor could feasibly take a historical tour to some or all of the Memory Parks by City buses, small shuttle buses, private vehicles or a bicycle. Sites proposed are open spaces where existing improvements are not found, are staged for redevelopment projects that might incorporate them, can share existing parking lots and are all immediately accessible off Scottsdale Road. The Memory Parks may range in size and respect one of the six Scottsdale Road Character Zones that the City of Scottsdale proposes.