

Desert EDGE Alert



The Desert EDGE is envisioned as the most important environmental education and research center in the world, focused on desert living and arid lands. Equally important, it also will engage children, families and students in the joy of discovery. The name describes the mission: Desert EDGE (Encounters, Discovery, Global, Education).

Last Monday evening, the Scottsdale City Council gave direction to keep the project moving forward. The Council heard City staff responses to Council questions from the September work study session. Rather than agreeing on ballot language, they chose to allow the “proper petition process” to proceed to its July due date.

In addition, the Council asked for a study of several other sites both within and out of the McDowell Sonoran Preserve now that there is a defined project including its educational mission, visitor experiences and costs.

In DDCS' contract, the Gateway location was identified as stated in past studies and Preserve documents for an *interpretive/education center or museum*. We think this incredible design and the quality experiences crafted are meant to celebrate and enhance the McDowell Sonoran Preserve. We want this project to be as successful as possible and so, if that requires additional study for the best location, we support that direction.

The Council also requested:

- more information on the business plan
- a deeper understanding of the ASU partnership

We appreciate the affirmation of the Desert EDGE shown by Council members and the desire to continue to advance the project.



To learn more about Desert EDGE, please visit scottsdaledesertcenter.com



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Desert Discovery Center Scottsdale, Inc.

7904 East Chaparral Road #A110 PMB488

Scottsdale, AZ 85250

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