

Verde Valley Land Use: Making Collaborative Decisions

Saturday, November 9th, 2019 8am - 4pm Beaver Creek School, Rimrock AZ

This Town Hall Forum will explore approaches and processes for communities in the Verde Valley to make collaborative decisions about the pressing land use issues impacting the region and its communities, in order to build informed consensus for possible action. The event will be professionally facilitated by Arizona Town Hall.

Expected Outcomes:

- Effective and ongoing cooperation, collaboration and communication on land use decision-making among the communities, particularly in the unincorporated areas;
- Identification of approaches for communities to coordinate initiatives for improved land use decision-making in the region;
- Identification of next steps forward over the next year to collaborate/influence processes related to land use and development.

Town Hall Process: The event is designed in a fast-pace, one-day format. Stakeholders from across the Verde Valley region will convene to discuss significant aspects of collaborative land use decision-making, share experiences, and formulate recommendations for actions to address identified needs. A primary objective is to develop approaches and processes for stakeholders to work together collaboratively.

The invited participants will reflect a demographic cross-section of the Verde Valley region, that includes community and business leaders, developers, government staff, elected officials, educators and residents from the five municipalities and the five census designated areas.

The forum format emulates the highly successful model developed by the Arizona Town Hall (AZTH).

- Kick-off and orientation
- Breakout group discussions
- Wrap-up session to develop goals and action plans

Prior to the event, participants will receive a background report that provides a common base of knowledge for the Town Hall Forum discussions.

The Forum wraps up with a discussion session in which participants develop consensus on goals and action plans for implementation.

Forum Report: After the Forum, a team of writers and editors will consolidate the group reports into a final consensus report that is published and distributed to the regional media and public libraries, in addition to agencies and organizations that have a role and/or responsibility concerning land use decisions.

Community Engagement: When the final report is completed, community outreach sessions will be scheduled to share Forum results with citizens and leaders throughout the Verde Valley region, including: Camp Verde, Cottonwood, Clarkdale-Jerome and Sedona, as well as the unincorporated communities of Big Park (VOC), Cornville-Page Springs-Verde Santa Fe, Verde Villages, Lake Montezuma-Rimrock and the Yavapai Apache Nation.

This Forum presents a unique and powerful opportunity for empowerment in the Verde Valley region:

- Leaders from every community will engage in productive dialog with thought leaders from across the region. They will be equipped with actionable steps and supported by the Town Hall organizers to inform, organize and activate the recommendations in their local community. A regional follow-up meeting to share results will be conducted 12 months after the Forum.
- Forum participants will establish relationships within the region that will benefit current and future shared learning, collaboration and cooperation.
- Forum participants will learn skills helpful in leading discussions that incorporate respectful discourse. These skills are what makes the Forum transformative to participant leaders and their communities.
- Identifying approaches and processes that enable a unified Verde Valley Regional voice to work with the County and State on land use reforms is critical to improving the current and future decision-making processes.

About Arizona Town Hall: Arizona Town Hall empowers individuals, communities and organizations to maximize their potential through informed, respectful conversation. http://www.aztownhall.org/About_Us

"It is a wonderful way to hear diverse views and ideas, network and to do something based on information discovered."