

CHAPTER 2

HISTORY & CULTURE

VISION STATEMENT:

Camp Verde will continue to value and celebrate its history and culture.

INTRODUCTION:

Remnants of Camp Verde's unique history and culture are scattered throughout the community. Historic Fort Verde State Park is one of only a handful of territorial forts remaining in the Southwestern United States and is a magnet for tourists and visitors. The historic Salt Mine, operated until the 1950s, is a source of interest to both amateur and academic geologists. Also, nearby Montezuma Castle National Monument and Montezuma Well, which tell the history of ancient pueblo life, annually attract some one million tourists to the Camp Verde area.

The History and Culture Element sets forth guidelines that will enable the community to celebrate and enhance the Town's "sense of place" for the benefit of present and future generations while managing new growth.

A. GOAL: PRESERVE AND ENHANCE THE HISTORIC CHARACTER OF CAMP VERDE

Implementation Strategy:

- A. 1. Encourage a survey of historic sites, places, buildings and transportation routes.
- A. 2. Continue to support and promote a museum complex, including the Hance House and Fort Verde, in the historical Fort Verde Town site, which features the broad history of Camp Verde and its pioneer families.
- A. 3. Enhance the Town's "sense of place" by preserving and promoting local history.
- A. 4. Ensure provisions for safe pedestrian, equestrian, and bicycle crossings of Main Street and other heavily traveled routes.
- A. 5. Encourage historic buildings, residences, and locations to be identified with markers crafted from river stone, limestone, or other local materials and metal plaques describing the history of the sites.
- A. 6. Remove intrusive modern elements, such as aboveground power and utility poles in the original Town site and in other areas of historic and scenic significance.
- A. 7. Identify and develop walkways and trails, which link neighborhoods and preserve a "sense of community" and the ability to interact with neighbors.

B. GOAL: PRESERVE, ENHANCE AND PROMOTE CAMP VERDE'S HISTORIC TOWNSITE.

Implementation Strategy:

- B. 1. Through the Downtown Redevelopment Project, develop and implement historic preservation through complementary zoning ordinances for the original town-site.
- B. 2. Investigate and adopt suitable methods for paving and/or resurfacing of roads and parking lots to maintain an aesthetic rural, non-urban character.

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- B. 3. Encourage restoration and reuse of buildings in the Historic Town site to assist with the promotion of tourism and other business related to the Town's historic and cultural resources.
- B. 4. Encourage growth management techniques to preserve the areas adjacent to Fort Verde State Park.
- B. 5. Develop cooperative programs with local citizens, schools, Camp Verde Historical Society, Fort Verde State Park, Camp Verde Chamber of Commerce, U.S. Forest Service and other appropriate government and non-profit organizations with the goal promoting local events and celebrations.

C. GOAL: DOCUMENT AND PRESERVE CULTURALLY-RELATED PRACTICES, EVENTS AND CELEBRATIONS WHICH REFLECT THE HISTORY OF CAMP VERDE AND ITS CITIZENS.

Implementation Strategy:

- C. 1. Establish a variety of programs to ensure maximum documentation and preservation of practices, events and celebrations.
- C. 2. Develop cooperative programs with local citizens, schools, Camp Verde Historical Society, Fort Verde State Park, Camp Verde Chamber of Commerce, U.S. Forest Service and other appropriate government and non-profit organizations with the goal of documenting and promoting local events and celebrations.