



Pinal County Comprehensive Plan
Visioning Workshop
Summary Report

Themes capture importance of history/heritage
Themes capture what's important to Pinal
Themes important to maintain some of "place" and how not to become Maricopa
Important to items captured
** Missing health services / med*
Small town quality of life
** Missing multi-generational*
Learn to celebrate differ
Developers required to preserve open space (green space, no trees) street codes / greenbelts
Keep natural environment
Leads to building restrictions
Paragraph
Mountains
Tool
Bedroom communities good
Keep agriculture system of open communities
Unit developing a system of like area / open
Not solution

Want grand kids to stay
One jr college not enough to train to bring jobs
** Law enforcement - missing*
Sense of community stands
Address drug problem
Don't want ranching to disappear
Schools / doctors
Preserve environment
East county sometimes neglected
Youth opportunities (to add gangs/drug)
Enjoy lifestyle of Keweenaw/Pinal
Not enough places for ag/industrial
Preserve space like forest/Park service mission
Make it mission
Thoughtful planning
Want places to escape
Concentrate development
Maintain wildlife corridors
Ensure year-long
Access to outdoor
Pretty areas
Open space
PKW

Pinal County Comprehensive Plan Visioning Workshops Executive Summary



In August 2007, seven “Visioning Workshop” events were held throughout Pinal County. The purpose of these Visioning Workshop events was to gather feedback on draft vision themes where were largely defined through the nine previous Road Show events.

Central Arizona College, Oracle, Santan, Stanfield, Kearny, Arizona City, and the Gila River Indian Community hosted Visioning Workshops; a total of 290 participants signed in at registration, though many more attended the events. The following report summarizes the results of these seven events. Specific meeting summaries for each Visioning Workshop event are available as an appendix to this executive summary.

The Visioning Workshops were a follow-up to the Road Show events held in July 2007. Participants of the Visioning Workshops were provided a draft Vision Handout (see appendix) which was a draft compilation of emerging vision themes derived from the Road Show events. These themes included: open spaces and places, sense of community, economic sustainability, quality education opportunities, mobility and connectivity, and environmental stewardship.

After a brief presentation, participants were led through a discussion regarding the draft themes. The following is a summary of the input received by participants.

Initial Impression of Emerging Vision Themes

In general, participants across the County supported the Emerging Vision Themes and felt that they were reflective of Pinal County’s ideal future. Participants stressed that an overriding principal of the Comprehensive Plan would stress the importance of collaborative partnerships with all agencies and governmental entities—responsive and accountable government is what residents want and expect from Pinal leadership.

Two additional potential themes were identified by several small groups during the Visioning Workshops: *Quality, Accessible Healthcare* and *Public Health, Safety and Welfare*. All themes and the resident feedback on the Themes will be considered as the draft Pinal Vision is crafted.



Participants at the Santan Workshop draft responses to the Vision Themes.



Oracle participants listen to a PowerPoint presentation.

“A Successful Pinal County Would...”

Participants were asked to review each Emerging Vision Theme statement and then respond to the following question: “If we do everything right, how would you describe a successful Pinal County in the future. What would be the outcome of our efforts? What would we have achieved?” The following provides a brief summary of the most frequent responses to each Vision Theme. Responses are provided in no specific order.

Open Spaces and Places, participants want:

- Large parcels of natural open space preserved, as well as open space serving as ‘buffers’ between communities.
- Pinal’s environmentally sensitive and historical, cultural and archeological places preserved.
- To see the desert, natural vegetation, wildlife, and mountains preserved from development and further intrusion.
- A reduction in light pollution and to preserve the night sky.
- A connected network of parks and recreational areas that provided full access and a range of recreational opportunities, including: hiking, biking, horseback, picnicking, ATV, RV or camping, birding and ball parks.
- Green spaces to be incorporated into all County developments, including amenities such as urban parks and greenbelts.
- Pinal to utilize its unique spaces and places to become Arizona’s outdoor recreation destination.

Sense of Community, participants want:

- Community space and public centers throughout the County to serve as places for the community to gather, to learn about their history, heritage and culture, and to host public and private festivities.
- Neighbors to know each other.
- Their communities to remain separate and distinct through preservation of their unique history and culture, ensuring downtowns are vibrant, and that local festivals continue.
- Better collaboration and relationships with the Indian Communities and various governmental entities.
- Pinal to be a place where they live, work, play and stay.
- Pinal to be a safe place.
- Access to government and to have opportunities to be involved in their communities.

Economic Sustainability, participants want:

- To attract environmentally-friendly, “green” industry to Pinal.
- Pinal to be known for renewable and alternative energy use and technological development.
- High quality, high-tech infrastructure.
- Activity (employment) centers throughout Pinal, offering diverse employment opportunities for a wide-range of skills and talents, as well as to sustain market changes.
- To produce products and services that are provided and purchased locally, including ensuring sustainable agriculture continues in Pinal.
- To expand Pinal’s “eco-tourism” opportunities.
- Accessible health- and emergency-care.
- Residents to be able to afford to stay in Pinal County.

Quality Education Opportunities, participants want:

- Partnerships between employers and educational institutions to develop workforce education programs, internships and mentor programs that address Pinal’s needs.
- Satellite locations for Central Arizona College and university(ies) located in Pinal that offer advanced degrees.
- To attract and retain high quality teachers by offering competitive benefits, well-funded programs and a high quality of life.

- Lifelong educational opportunities.
- Small, community schools where families and the community are actively involved in the education of our children.
- To exceed State education standards and graduate rates.
- Curriculum that focuses on Pinal’s history, cultures and heritage, and emphasizes our role as environmental stewards.
- High tech and non-traditional educational opportunities, tools, and infrastructure to support quality education.

Mobility and Connectivity, participants want:

- Multimodal transportation opportunities in Pinal, including: mass transit, park and ride lots, biking, horseback, airport(s), light rail, high speed rail, use of current rail, trails and hiking.
- Activity centers and communities to be better connected, and travel to/from Phoenix and Tucson to be more efficient.
- To identify mobility corridors now and to protect them for future development.
- Wildlife corridors to be identified and protected.
- Cutting edge telecommunications infrastructure throughout the County.
- ‘Scenic’ routes in Pinal preserved, dirt roads paved, and use of alternative and renewable energy sources.
- Mobility options to address special populations, including the elderly, low income families, and our youth.
- An effective emergency access and management plan.

Environmental Stewardship, participants want:

- To be the model for sustainability, including having ‘green’ County codes that address light pollution, water conservation, desert landscaping, residential grey water access, solar-oriented architecture and LEED building standards.
- A long-range, secure water supply and County-wide sustainable water practices.
- A county-wide recycling program.
- A clean environment, free of pollutants.
- Innovative and sustainable waste and landfill solutions.
- To preserve the natural desert and sensitive areas, including waterways, riparian areas, and canyons.
- Alternative and sustainable energy use in Pinal.



Gila River Indian Community participants reflect on the Vision Themes.



A participant shares his thoughts at the Kearny Workshop.

It's All Related

Visioning Workshop participants often reflected that the six Vision Themes were closely related, some serving as tools to accomplish some Themes or are critical to the success of other Themes. The graphic below demonstrates the important relationship between the six emerging Themes and provides some examples of the overlap in goals identified by participants.

