

Proposed Turtleback subdivision becomes Turtleback Equestrian Estates

By Art Pulis
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Listening to local sentiment and wanting to have a unique subdivision in keeping with Wickenburg's Western heritage culture, the partners of the Turtleback project have revised their plat plan, renamed the project, and will offer more horse-oriented amenities to both residents and the general public.

According to Turtleback managing partner Gary Turner, the prior marketing studies did not emphasize an equestrian lifestyle. However, after further analysis and discussions with several leaders it was determined to change that thinking.

"I have to admit that until recently I have not been a horse person," said Turner. "But, we all recognize that the Western and equestrian lifestyle and history of the town is paramount. Consequently we have revised the plan, adding trails, and an equestrian rest area with hitching posts, water tank, ramadas for shade, tables, and grills.

"Prior restrictions would not allow horses at the homes," continued Turner. "Under the new concept horses will be encouraged and a series of interlinking trails will allow all homes access to the public equestrian area and public lands south of the project." Turner emphasized the importance of this change for the benefit of the town. This proposed subdivision is strategically located between downtown Wickenburg and public lands to the south. Since Turtleback Wash is an important access point to those riding and hiking trails, the partners are making the effort to permanently transfer certain land to the town or trails organizations for public use. By doing so, town residents will be sure of access to such important scenic areas as Wickenburg Peak and Vulture Peak.

"We see this trail system as important to the town, but we also believe that the equestrian concept will enhance the attraction of the project," said Turner. "The spectacular views and close proximity to town are important, but by promoting horses and riding we are further adding to the unique Western lifestyle and culture of Wickenburg.

"The trail system and publicly available equestrian area will open up more than 100 square miles of gorgeous riding to everyone," continued Turner. "We recognize that dedicated trails are crucial for the continuance of the Western culture of the town."

Turtleback Equestrian Estates is a proposed subdivision of 134 custom-home lots on 293 acres on the south and east sides of Turtleback Mountain. The project calls for custom-built estate homes on one- to five-acre lots and is expected to be built out over a 30-year period.