



Sky Harbor Flight Path Programs Engagement Plan

Objective:

To influence the FAA to make procedural and other changes that would lessen the impact of Sky Harbor light patterns on the DC Ranch community-at-large. DC Ranch Community Council will communicate with the FAA along with elected officials and will also inform residents of opportunities to participate as individuals. Actions taken by the Community Council to mitigate the impact of Sky Harbor's flight path programs on the DC Ranch community-at-large should not create a negative impact on another community.

Background:

In 2024 the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) implemented NextGen, which revised flight path routes around the country, including at Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport. The new flight paths follow precise GPS-based flight control data points, rather than landmark-based ones.

The NextGen flight patterns increased Sky Harbor air traffic over DC Ranch. DC Ranch along with the city of Scottsdale opposed these changes (including legal action taken by the city) but the FAA ultimately prevailed.

In late 2025, the FAA announced they were initiating another flight path change program. Virtual Open Houses to explain the program and seek public input will begin in 2026.

The DC Ranch Community Council will meet with various government agencies to influence procedural and other changes that lessen the impact on the community-at-large. We will also closely monitor the FAA's public process as it unfolds to update residents on any opportunities for public comment.

The DC Ranch Community Council welcomes input from any resident, Ranch Association, Covenant Commission members, and any other relevant group as it pertains to this engagement plan.

DC Ranch will adhere to our stated policy of civil dialogue, which states, "Residents and DC Ranch employees shall conduct themselves in a manner that is civil and respectful, refraining from abusive, demeaning or hostile language or behavior."

The process below outlines the DC Ranch approach to Sky Harbor flight path programs:

Approach:

The Community Council will:

- Advocate for procedural and other changes that can lessen the impact of Sky Harbor flight paths on DC Ranch

- Schedule and participate in various meetings and conversations with elected officials to seek their support for pursuing resolutions to DC Ranch’s concerns and to partner with them to influence the FAA to make changes
- Attend outreach opportunities hosted by the FAA to share the impact Sky Harbor flight paths have on the DC Ranch community-at-large
- Communicate with the FAA in any manner available and as appropriate
- Inform residents of opportunities for individual engagement
- Provide updates to the Community Council board and residents as information becomes available

Targeted audiences: FAA, Arizona’s federal elected officials, Scottsdale City Council, Scottsdale Airport management, DC Ranch residents and other entities when identified as appropriate

Spokesperson: Director of Public Affairs, Chris Irish with support from Executive Director Jona Davis, lobbying firm if appropriate, and the DC Ranch communications team

News media inquiries: To be handled by Chris Irish; attribute all quotes and comments to spokesperson

Resident questions: Direct to Chris Irish

Anticipated timeline: 2017 – TBD

Key factors:

1. Flight path pattern and density
2. Height and speed of planes
3. Throttle-up and throttle-down locations
4. Other factors that can mitigate the increased airplane noise over DC Ranch due to Sky Harbor’s flight paths.