



Maricopa County

Parks & Recreation Department

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MEMORANDUM

Date: August 15, 2019
To: Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission
From: R.J. Cardin, Director
Re: Director's Summary of Current Events

Listed below are activities the department has been involved with during **May, June and July 2019.**

- **The Best Campsite in Every State:** *Insider.com* rated McDowell Mountain Regional Park as the best campground in Arizona. They selected the best campsite from every state based on ratings from Yelp and TripAdvisor. McDowell Mountain Regional Park had an average rating of five stars on Yelp and included numerous photos shared by campers and visitors. The full article can be found at <http://bit.ly/2GRuaSq>.
- **Parks and Recreation Department Awards:** Below is a list of award submittal since March 2019.
 - National Association of Counties (NACo)
 - Trail Management Manual Update – Submitted under Parks and Recreation category – **Awarded a 2019 Achievement Award**
 - Maricopa Trail – Submitted under Parks and Recreation category for an Achievement Award – Not awarded
 - National Association of County Park and Recreation Officials (NACPRO)
 - Maricopa Trail – Submitted under the Trails & Corridors - Class II category – **Awarded the 2019 NACPRO Award**
 - Trail Management Manual – Submitted under the Special Awards – Trails & Corridors – Class II category – Not awarded
 - National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA)
 - 100 Miles in 100 Days Challenge – Submitted under the Innovation in Health and Wellness Award – winners announced September 2019
 - Arizona Forward
 - Nature-themed Playgrounds – Submitted for the Environmental Excellence Awards under the Art in Public Places category – winners announced September 2019
 - Maricopa Trail – Submitted for the Environmental Excellence Awards under the Healthy Communities category – winners announced September 2019.

Board of Supervisors Agenda Items:

Date/Status	Tracking Number	Summary
5/22/2019 Approved	C-30-19-017-M-00	Amendment to IGA with Yavapai County: Execute Amendment #1 to Intergovernmental Agreement between Maricopa and Yavapai Counties addressing revisions to the costs for Yavapai County's Criminal Justice System and Maricopa County's law enforcement occurring in Yavapai County within the Lake Pleasant Regional Park.
5/22/2019 Approved	C-30-12-017-M-01	Administrative Payment Changes to Maricopa County Employee Annual Park Pass Discount Program: Approve administrative payment changes to the Maricopa County employee discount for the Parks' annual passes by eliminating the payroll deduction process in favor of a one-time yearly discount applied at the time the pass is purchased. The end cost to the employee remains unchanged.
6/12/2019 Approved	C-30-19-018-2-00	Increase to Revenue and Expenditure Authority: Approve an appropriation adjustment increasing the FY19 Donation Fund Operating revenue budget by \$25,000 to reflect additional revenue and an appropriation adjustment increasing the FY19 Parks Donation Fund Operating expenditure budget by \$25,000.

6/12/2019 Approved	C-30-19-019-2-00	Transfer From Parks Souvenir Fund to Parks Enhancement Fund: Approve an operating transfer of \$35,000 from the Parks Department's Souvenir Fund to the Parks Department's Enhancement Fund.
6/12/2019 Approved	C-06-19-508-7-00	Donation Report for April/May 2019: Cash value of \$1,358.65 and Non-cash value of \$16.91.
7/31/2019 Approved	C-30-20-02-V-00	Addition of Vehicle to Fleet: Approve the permanent addition of one vehicle to Parks and Recreation to be assigned to the Parks Administration Planning & Development Division.
7/31/2019 Approved	C-30-06-032-1-03	Amendment #4 with KCCM Enterprises, LLC: Approve Amendment Four to the Use Management Agreement with KCCM Enterprises, LLC, dba Victory Lane Sports Complex to extend the term until June 30, 2044, for KCCM to continue to manage and operate the sports complex at Adobe Dam Regional Park.
7/31/2019 Approved	C-30-20-001-D-00	Memorial Bench Donations: Accept donations for six memorial benches to be placed in Lake Pleasant Regional Park and Estrella, San Tan and McDowell Mountain Regional Parks.
7/31/2019 Approved	C-06-20-002-7-00	Donation Report for June: Cash value of \$554.21

Administration

The purpose of the Administrative Division is to provide strategic direction, leadership, administrative and financial support to the Director and employees of the department so they can produce the results necessary to achieve the departmental mission and vision. The following information is provided as a high-level overview of the activities of the Administrative Division:

Parks Department's FY19 Performance Measures Report:

(The report is located at the end of the Director Summary report.)

Financial/Budget through Fiscal Year 2019:

End of FY19 - Actual			YTD	YTD
Fund Name	Fund	Type	Actual	Budget
General Fund	100	Expenditures	\$869,987.00	\$878,891.00
			Budget to Actual Amount	\$8,904
			Budget to Actual Percentage	1.01%
Spur Cross Ranch Conservation Fund	225	Revenue	\$319,579.00	\$294,955.00
			Budget to Actual Amount	-\$24,624.00
			Budget to Actual Percentage	-8.35%
	225	Expenditures	\$277,572.00	\$294,955.00
			Budget to Actual Amount	\$17,383.00
			Budget to Actual Percentage	5.89%
Lake Fund	240	Revenue	\$3,617,239.00	\$3,284,085.00
			Budget to Actual Amount	-\$333,154.00
	240	Expenditures	\$3,034,646.00	\$3,284,085.00
			Budget to Actual Amount	\$249,439.00
Enhancement Fund	241	Revenue	\$6,576,864.00	\$5,852,602.00
			Budget to Actual Amount	-\$724,262.00
	241	Expenditures	\$5,444,377.00	\$5,852,602.00
			Budget to Actual Amount	\$408,225.00
		Budget to Actual Percentage	6.98%	

GREEN	Positive variance, no concern
RED	Negative/under budget - watch

Contract Administration:

- **Use Management Agreements (New):** Staff has made an extensive effort over the last year to streamline and strengthen our agreement process for large-scale concessionaires by revamping our Use Management Agreement. We incorporated comments and received "sign-off" from all relevant Departments. This agreement may also be useful, in a modified form, for other departments across the County.
- **Commercial Management Concessions Agreement (CMCA):** Last year, pursuant to Resolution C-30-18-016-M-00, the Board of Supervisors delegated signature authority to the MCPRD Director to enter into new CMCA's with the Concessionaire. The new CMCA provided for an application fee of \$150 plus a minimum annual fee of \$225 or 10% of gross revenue, whichever is greater. Per the Commission's request, staff was asked to provide the FY impact of the new CMCA fees. In summary:
 - 1) Four CMCA's transferred to the new CMCA agreement, resulting in a negative impact of \$789.53;
 - 2) Nine new CMCA's were issued resulting in additional revenue of \$5,430; and
 - 3) Total of new CMCA's produced \$19,104.83 of revenue as compared to \$14,553.93 for FY18.

As a collective for FY19, a total of 42 CMCA's produced \$25,663.96 in revenue.

The new process has allowed our Department to not only increase revenue but also increase the number of service providing concessionaires in the parks, thereby affording the opportunity for an improved park visitor experience.

FY19 CMCA Fee Comparison Summary							
FY19 New CMCA				FY19 Old CMCA			
CMCA CONVERSIONS	Total	FY19 New CMCA		Total	Previous CMCA		Impact Totals
	Gross Revenue	Current CMCA Fee	Total	Gross Revenue ²	Old CMCA Fee	Total	
MD Ranch CMCA #1303060	\$ 92,633.00	10%	\$ 9,263.30	\$ 92,633.00	10%	\$ 9,263.30	\$ -
Horseback Arizona @ Spur Cross Stables #1951970	\$ 35,476.70	10%	\$ 3,547.67	\$ 35,476.70	10%	\$ 3,547.67	\$ -
Desert Snow CMCA #1303347	\$ 6,256.30	10%	\$ 625.63	\$ 6,256.30	20%	\$ 1,251.26	\$ (625.63)
AZ Sailing Advent CMCA #1308661	\$ 3,278.00	10%	\$ 327.80	\$ 3,278.00	15%	\$ 491.70	\$ (163.90)
New CMCA Conversion Fees Received			\$ 13,764.40			\$ 14,553.93	\$ (789.53)

Additional CMCA Issued FY19	Total Gross Revenue	CMCA Fees	Total
AZ Desert Dogs CMCA #1302019	\$ 10,172.50	10%	\$ 1,017.25
BigFishBullies CMCA #1524955	\$ 2,625.00	10%	\$ 262.50
Civana Carefree Resort CMCA #1246490	\$ 4,997.50	10%	\$ 499.75
Corral West at White Tank CMCA #1456533	\$ 13,999.80	10%	\$ 1,399.98
Dale Firewing CMCA #1273288	\$ 2,625.00	10%	\$ 262.50
Desert Breeze Kayaking, LLC CMCA #1637427	\$ 3,187.50	10%	\$ 318.75
Juice Town CMCA#1234115	\$ 5,437.50	10%	\$ 543.75
Ninja Mountain Bike Performance CMCA #1217198	\$ 6,809.50	10%	\$ 680.95
UofA Campus Recreation CMCA #1534598	\$ 3,750.00	10%	\$ 375.00
Total Additional CMCA FY19			\$ 5,340.43

Summary:
 37 APPLICATIONS RECEIVED
 12 APPLICATION FEES PAID
 12 NEW CMCA'S ISSUED

FY19 TOTAL ALL NEW CMCAs: \$ 19,104.83

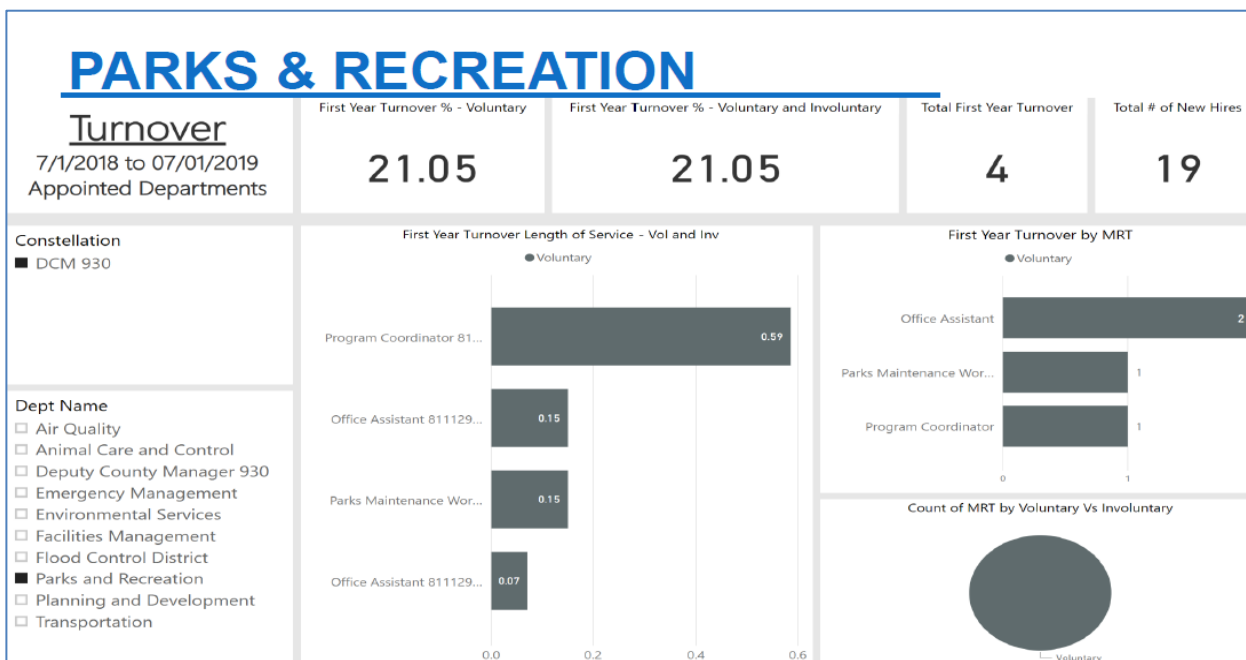
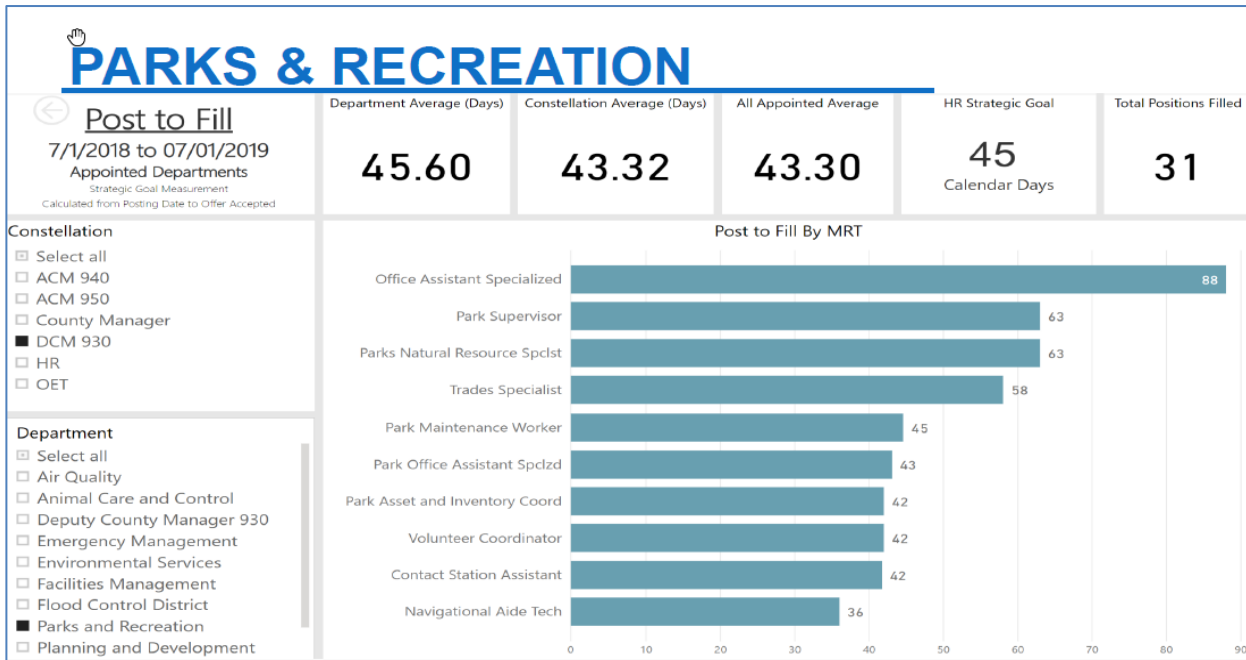


- **Adobe:**
 - Special Use Permits Issued:
 - o July - September, Adobe Mountain Speedway/Phoenix Kart Racing Association (AMS/PKRA): Permits issued by Parks and the Flood Control District of Maricopa County for clean-up, electrical upgrades, and reconstruction of an existing dirt track.

- July – December 31, Achen-Gardner: Permit issued for land use. City of Phoenix has hired multiple contractors for the upgrades to Pinnacle Peak Road. Achen-Gardner is using the corner of Pinnacle Peak Road and 43rd Avenue as their staging area.
- September 1, Six Flags Hurricane Harbor Phoenix – Fireworks Labor Day
- September 1 – April 30, Six Flags Hurricane Harbor Phoenix Farmer's Market (Saturdays)
- **Lake Pleasant:** The Government Dock is under construction with an anticipated completion date of November 1, 2019.

Human Resources:

- FY19 Post to Fill and Turnover data



- FY20 HR Strategic Goals:
 - Post to Fill – 45 calendar days
 - Reduce First Year Turnover Rate

Planning and Development Division

Vulture Mountain Recreation Area Update

- The 60% - 100% final design work has begun with EPS and is on track for completion in early 2020. EPS is finalizing roadway construction design for the Maricopa County Department of Transportation Department (MCDOT). Current design work includes completion of alternative designs for a Waters of the USA Section 404 Individual Permit for the Vulture Mine Road improvements as well a separate permit for the County park roadway system and park amenities. A 404 permit is required because of the multiple wash crossings on the project site.
Depending on US Army Core of Engineers (USACE), the alternative design requirements for the permit could potentially delay the construction, however, the County environmental consultants are working closely will all parties to have design alternatives completed and reviewed by the USACE for final permitting. It is anticipated the roadway construction project will start in the fall of 2020 (FY21).

Project Management

- The new potable water pumping station is now complete at Cave Creek Regional Park. The new variable speed pump system detects water demand downstream and adjusts flows and pressure requirements based on the demand. Variable speed pumps run much more efficiently and reduce overall electrical demand saving electricity and overall wear on the water system.
- Automatic Park entry gates are now installed at White Tank, Estrella, and Cave Creek Parks. These programmable gates allow for automated opening and closing for the parks and can be controlled by both key fob and programming. Use of these gates is efficient and saves staff time by eliminating the manual opening and closing. Automated gates will also enhance overnight visitor safety and deter vandalism.
- The Project Manager completed the Lake Pleasant Regional Park Super Playground and shade installation in July. The new playground features an eagle and Gila monster slide as well as tortoise and cottonwood tree climbers, and swings under a bald eagle nest.

Park and Open Space Planning

- The Sun Corridor Trail Project is a multi-agency effort of over nine counties, forty-one cities, and three states. The proposed trail will extend over 1,500 miles from Douglas, AZ to Las Vegas, NV. The planning team is making progress with funding through Arizona State parks, discussing agreements (charters) between agencies, registering completed segments with the DOI for potential National Recreation Trail status, and initiating the public outreach phase of the project. The Maricopa Trail is a key element of the Sun Corridor Trail.
- Strategic System Master Plan (SSMP) – Formal Kick-off for the plan is now underway. The current Strategic System Master Plan was written in 2009 and has been used to outline operational priorities, system development, programming, future land acquisition, capital improvements, and department policies. The revised SSMP is scheduled to be completed late 2020.
- Completion of the ASU Visitor Survey – The purpose of this research project is to conduct a visitor survey regarding perceptions of service and facility quality, activity preferences, setting/facility preferences, benefits sought and realized, attitudes toward park fees and demographics. This years' survey was a follow-up and will be compared to previous park visitor surveys conducted in 1999-2000, 2002-2003, 2005-2006, 2007-2008, and 2011-2012 completed by ASU (Arizona State University). This survey incorporated key outcome measures consistent with the countywide Managing for Results program. Nine parks were surveyed over the last year (ten months for Lake Pleasant and seven months for the mountain parks).
- Completion of the ASU Visitor Use Management (VUM) Framework - A second research study was conducted for Waterfall Trail at White Tank Mountain Regional Park. This study focused on implementing a pilot visitor survey under the new Visitor Use Management (VUM) Framework developed by the Interagency Visitor Use Management Council. The VUM is a framework to proactively manage sustainable visitor use so that an agency is able to encourage access, improve visitor experiences, and protect resources and

values. It builds on past visitor use management frameworks such as Visitor Experience Resource Protection (NPS) and Visitor Impact Management (USFS).

Trades Crew

- The Trades Crew fabricated new pump system enclosure for the Cave Creek Regional Park booster station. The rusted steel design shields the pump system from the sun and blends the equipment into the environment while it shields the public view along the roadway to the trails and Nature Center.
- The Trades Crew fabricated 100 water pedestals for the new Uesry Mountain Regional Park campground sites. In conjunction with the ongoing electrical renovation project for the campground, the electrical and water supplies were separated off the old pedestals and will be reinstalled with newly separated pedestals. This project will not only allow the campground to be more sustainable and maintainable, it will also create a safer camping environment for the park visitors.
- The Trades Crew continues to work on the Willow campsites at White Tank Mountain Regional Park. Work continues on ramadas, framed tent pads, and granite installation to ready the area for a fall opening.

Trails Crew

- Trails staff have been working on the new Overton/Go John connector at the Cave Creek Regional Park. Staff completed the mini-bulldozer cut, installed a drain and dip, installed a 36-inch culvert and rip rap, and is working on finish work on the trail bed. Trails staff also started laying out another section of the Overton trail away from County park roadway and is working on the Clay Mine trail extension.

Maricopa Trail, Sun Circle, and Trail Facilities:

- The following trail segments are currently in progress – 11, 27, 33, 77, and 78.
- Agreement preparation/negotiations:
 - Estrella Community – Segment 33, new route. Community management will sign the agreement and will be submitted to the Board of Supervisors for their approval.
 - Bureau of Land Management – Waiting for the Travel Management Plan completion on the proposed route between Estrella Mountain Park and Buckeye Hills Park. The federal government has put this on hold.
 - City of Phoenix – Draft for Segment 1 and Segment 7 is in review by the County Attorney's office.
 - Maricopa Water District (MWD) – Trailhead on Segment 35 at Northern Avenue. Approved by MWD in October 2018, waiting on MCDOT and developer NW of site.
 - Avondale – Met and reached agreement on the Sun Circle Trail re-route.
 - Flood Control District – Submitted plans for the trailhead on Sun Valley Parkway (Segment 11) 4/23/19.
- Maintenance
 - Segment 9 – Trimmed trees and removed weeds June 2019.
 - Segment 11 – Groomed and brushed trail from the Trilby Trailhead to SR303 June 2019.
- Trailheads
 - Segment 35 – Northern Avenue – waiting for MCDOT & developer.
 - Segment 11 – Sun Valley Parkway – Re-submitted plans to FCD 7/15/19.
 - Segment 27 – Bush Highway – Trailhead design completed by MCDOT; BOR (Bureau of Reclamation) License preliminarily approved.
- Sign Installation, Inventory, and Mapping
 - All segments have been completed except Segments 7, 17, 45, 19, 24, 25, 27 and 78.
- Route Determination – Developing alternate routes for Segment 77 Vulture Mountain to Lake Pleasant and Segment 76 White Tank to Vulture Mountain.

Parks Operations Report

Cave Creek Regional Park

- In May, the park hosted five interpretive programs with 63 participants attending. The highlighted programs for the month: *Feeding Frenzy* with 37 attendees.
- In June, the park hosted four interpretive programs with 62 participants attending. The highlighted program for the month: *Scorpion Hunt* with 22 attendees.

- In July, the park hosted four interpretive programs with 32 participants attending. The highlighted program for the month: *Feeding Frenzy* with 11 attendees.
- The staff has been busy refurbishing the maintenance compound with new flooring and a fresh coat of paint. Staff will be building new shelving units. The old desk is being recycled and modular furniture is being installed.

Desert Outdoor Center (DOC)

- In May, staff celebrated the 21st anniversary of the Desert Outdoor Center's opening (May 1, 1998) and wrapped up another busy spring season with school field trips. Many schools have booked again for the upcoming school year, especially overnight field trips.
- In June, staff was able to lend a helping hand to Arizona Game and Fish Department and Wildlife for Tomorrow's two-week summer camp which needed to find a new location due to an algae bloom in their on-site pond.
- In July, staff opened the security gate to offer a few programs to the general public including full moon hikes, scorpion hunts and movies in the park. One of our newest and most successful programs is *Homeschool Happenings*, which gives homeschoolers a chance to visit our Center without worrying about the 25-person minimum usually applied to school visits. It is quickly picking up in popularity as visitors spread the good news about this new family opportunity.
- Over the last year, Ranger Amber developed a new and relevant program focused on recycling. "Recycling Rules!" is for grades 3rd through 8th dealing with subjects such as Science, Health, and Sustainability. In May, Montessori International School from Gilbert, AZ was our first group to take the program. The students were engaged in discussion, worked together to solve the sorting game, and shared their personal experiences with recycling, trash, water conservation, and composting at their school and homes. We are excited to offer this new program to more schools next year.

Estrella Mountain Regional Park

- Estrella Park offered 16 programs in May with 176 people in attendance. The highly successful *Homeschool Happenings* classes came to a close the first week of May. Hiking interest has started to shift to night programs. The *Full Moon Hike* and *Scorpion Search* were well attended with approximately 30 people at each program. As the summer heat draws near, all heat advisory signs have been posted and the ranger is engaging day time hikers with safety talks about water and overexertion.
- Two running races were hosted by Race Timers in Estrella Park in May; one held on the Coldwater Trail and the other on the Competitive Track. Each race had close to 100 people running through the cool early morning desert air.
- An Eagle Scout candidate completed the tortoise enclosure by constructing a top for the rock wall and conducting an interior landscape clean-up. He also completed repainting the stucco monument sign at the entrance to the park.
- The Interpretive Ranger from Estrella has been partnering with a ranger from the Desert Outdoor Center to update the Animal Curating program for the department. All permits are up to date with the state and federal governments. An update to animal curating policy and procedures document is occurring now.
- Estrella Park offered 14 programs in June with 261 people in attendance. Saturday nights are the busiest for interpretive programming.
- The *Creatures of the Night* program on June 22nd was the first scheduled hiking program to be conducted on the turfgrass paved walkway; this was a huge success and many of the visitors appreciated the use of a flat paved surface to observe animals at night. The mesquite bosque area on the south side of the loop path has become a favorite place to view animals at night.
- There was a series of running races hosted by Aravaipa Running in Estrella Park in mid-June. Nearly 350 runners ran varying distances from 5K and 8k to longer runs of 15K, 23K, and 54K (33 miles).
- A successful *Desert Defenders* citizen science class was held in June at White Tank Park, this collaborative class had many volunteers from both White Tank and Estrella learning about invasive plants and how to map those plants. Park staff is planning to hold another program later in the year when the winter volunteers have returned.
- Estrella Park held five programs in July with 32 in attendance. In spite of the hot temperatures, the evening programs were still successful with *The Hurricane Harbor* ticket give-away helping to draw in the summer crowd.

- The turf redesign project continues to move forward, wrapping up of Phase I, which included new ramadas, trees, placement of decomposed granite, and much more. Staff continues to make sure the irrigation system is functioning at its best, which means multiple repairs to the water lines.

Lake Pleasant Regional Park

- Lake Pleasant offered 44 interpretive programs during the months of May, June, and July to 594 program attendees. Highlights for the months included the *Searching for Scorpions*, *Exploring Crystals and Minerals*, *Rattlesnakes of America*, *Family Fun Fishing Clinic*, and *Hike and Splash*.
- An intern associated with Luke Air Force Base has been coming out to the lake to learn about the on-water operations and working with our navigational aide team performing buoy relocation and other related tasks. The intern will be spending a couple of weeks at Lake Pleasant and visiting other parks to assist with special projects between now and the middle of November.
- Several cleanup groups have come out to assist with the busy season and picking up the massive amounts of trash left behind by some park visitors. Arrowhead Honda did a phenomenal job cleaning up in Two Cow Cove and youth from Liberty High School in Peoria completed picking up litter at the end of Desert Tortoise Road. Park staff put forth a tremendous amount of effort picking up trash this season and focused heavily on educating the public by issuing trash bags, providing educational chats, and distributing literature to assist with improving the on-going issue.
- Two baby eagles were observed "hanging out," leading experts to believe an additional/unknown nest may be within the park. Initial efforts to locate the new nest have been unsuccessful.
- Renovations to the Beardsley Trailhead have now been completed. Park visitors will enjoy the new gate and fence system (geared to keep burros and cattle out of the area), an information kiosk, self-pay station, and map distribution center. Visitors enjoy traveling along this beautiful trail (Beardsley Trail) as they follow along the Morgan City and Agua Fria Washes thru a mesquite bosque forest full of wildlife and other delights.
- Special thanks to the team at Lake Pleasant and the staff assistance provided by other parks, as they have been working diligently during this extremely busy season. The crew did a phenomenal job getting people quickly thru the lines at the entry station and keeping the park clean and functioning for the busy Memorial Day and July 4th weekends.

McDowell Mountain Regional Park

- During the month of May, the park hosted five interpretive programs with 15 participants. The last event of the season was held; *Adrenaline Nights* with 494 participants.
- Work started on Visitor Center improvements, including upgrading the floors, renovating restrooms, and painting offices.
- During the month of June, there were four interpretive programs with 12 people in attendance. The first two Night Rides in the *Summer Night Ride* series were held with approximately 90 mountain bikers each night.
- During the month of July, seven interpretive programs took place with 25 participants in attendance. The park hosted one Night Ride with about 100 participants.

San Tan Regional Park

- For May, San Tan hosted 24 programs with a total of 645 participants. A highlight for the month was the annual *Stargazing for Everyone* event that brought in 300 participants. Other programs of note were a *Sunset Photography* walk that drew 25 people and the first *Scorpion Search Trail Walk* of the season.
- The ranger provided an outreach program to the Maricopa County Library downtown Chandler branch. The topic was on County Parks in general with a focus on San Tan due to its proximity.
- In June, the park presented 20 programs with 370 people participating. *Critters and a Movie*, which was listed in an AZ Republic article about summer activities for children, brought in 45 people to watch a desert documentary and visit with some of our animal ambassadors. Mid-month, approximately 60 people attended a *Tortoise Feeding* followed by an indoor session with kids' worksheets and puzzles.
- In the month of July, the park hosted 20 programs for 250 participants. The *Scorpion Search Trail Walk* was the highlight of the month, bringing in 55 people for the indoor talk and 67 people on the trail walk. At the end of the month, 20 people learned about Gila monsters and "met" our captive monster, Jaws.
- During the last three months, San Tan Park staff responded to eight rescues/incidents in the park for visitors who were injured, short on water or otherwise affected by the heat.

Spur Cross Conservation Area

- In May, the park hosted six interpretive programs with 89 participants in attendance. The highlighted programs for the month: *Full Moon Hike* with 29 participants.
- In June, the park hosted eight interpretive programs with 75 participants in attendance. The highlighted programs for the month: *Moonlight Hike* 24 participants.
- In July, the park hosted five interpretive programs with 49 participants in attendance. The highlighted programs for the month: *Fruits of the Desert* with 21 attendees.
- The interpretive ranger has moved his office from Cave Creek Town Hall and joined the staff in the Nature Center at Cave Creek Regional Park. Some minor adjustments have been made, which include installing additional modular furniture for his office space and moving some office equipment to the break room. Normal operations of Spur Cross has continued.

Usery Mountain Regional Park

- Usery Park offered 14 interpretive programs in May totaling 602 participants, 17 programs in June totaling 888 participants, and 16 programs in July totaling 477 participants. The most popular program(s) in May and June were the *Scorpion Hunt* programs with 316 total in attendance. The most popular program in July was our *Full Moon Hike* with 78 people in attendance.
- The Buckhorn Campground project (electrical/water upgrades) began on May 13, 2019, with the first of five phases. As of the end of July, Phase 4 of the project was started.
- Ranger "B" provided five Outreach Programs during this reporting period; the largest with Mesa Parks and Recreation Department with 140 youth in attendance.
- The Usery Mountain Archers hosted a Thursday night Archery league running May through August. The league is held every Thursday night during the summer at 7:00 p.m. and is open to all ages.
- The Park Supervisor served on the Arizona Parks and Recreation Awards Committee where she reviewed and scored approximately 30 award submissions. This is her 11th year serving on the APRA Awards Committee.
- Ranger "B" was interviewed by Channel 15 (ABC) about the popular Phoenix sign across from Usery Mountain Regional Park; photo opportunity and history.
- Usery Mountain Regional Park had a 6.5% increase in attendance; 223,413 the previous year to 238,030 in FY19.
- The park received and installed four new memorial benches, two on Blevins trail, and one each on Merkle Trail and Lost Sheep trail.

Vulture Mountains Recreation Area and Hassayampa River Preserve

- Visitation at the Preserve continued stronger than expected into May, most likely due to continued cooler weather. A total of 1,386 visitors came to the Preserve during the month which was up 47% from May 2018 (944 visitors). During the month, the Interpretive Ranger and volunteers presented 11 interpretive programs to 132 people. The Preserve incorporated programming to celebrate both *eBird Global Big Day* (citizen science bird count) and *World Migratory Bird Day*, with guided bird walks and information stations.
- For eBird Global Big Day, the Preserve joined birders around the world in submitting bird sightings to the eBird database. The Preserve has participated in eBird Global Big Day for many years. World Migratory Bird Day strives to raise awareness of issues that affect migratory birds and to inspire people around the world to take action to help in bird conservation. This year's theme was how plastic pollution affects wildlife and especially birds.
- Various migratory birds and summer resident birds were seen throughout the month at the Preserve, the highlight being an elusive male Hooded Warbler that treated park staff and visitors with its presence for a few days.
- Park staff met with staff from The Nature Conservancy (TNC) for training to collect instream flow water monitoring data. The Park Supervisor worked on collecting GPS data for invasive plants as well as historic features found in the Preserve. This data will be used in resource management planning for the department.
- June's visitation of 929 saw a 66% increase from June 2018, and a 144% increase from June 2017, which was the first year the Preserve was under MCPRD management. The program highlight of the month was our annual Kids Nature Camp with seventeen campers. The nature walks and STEM-based activities were led by the HRP Interpretive Ranger, HRP volunteers, and visiting Rangers from the Desert Outdoor Center and White Tank Park. In addition to Nature Camp, the Interpretive Ranger and volunteers presented nine

programs to the public. These included the popular *Creatures of the Night Walk* and two outreaches for local community groups.

- The Preserve received delivery of a custom whiteboard pre-printed with the Preserve's bird species checklist. Because of the biodiversity at the Preserve, the board is 6' wide and 5' tall to accommodate the list of almost 300 bird species.
- Despite the July heat, the Preserve saw 455 visitors for the month, approximately a 25% increase over July 2018. The Interpretive Ranger and volunteers presented eight interpretive programs during the month, which were attended by 102 people (22% of the visitors for the month). Highlights included the monthly *Bird Walk* and the *Creatures of the Night Walk*. A new addition to programming was *Bugs & Black Lights*, a nocturnal insect-focused program led by Parks volunteer and retired entomologist Jack Jenkins.
- The Arizona Game and Fish Department have been conducting their annual surveys for the Western Yellow-Billed Cuckoo, a threatened bird species which nests in the Preserve. Other current research being conducted includes bat acoustical monitoring by the Phoenix College Bioscience Department.
- A rare display of the Queen of the Night cactus treated staff and a few visitors recently. This unassuming cactus looks like a dead stick most of the year but blooms one night a year and blooms can remain open into the next morning. The Preserve has two Queens that together produced a display of 60 beautiful blooms.
- Planning and design efforts with MRT are underway for the Vulture Mountains Nature Center and day-use areas.

White Tank Mountain Regional Park

- White Tank Park offered 19 interpretive programs in May with 535 attending. Snake Feedings have grown in popularity and the park has a regular crowd of 30+ people attending. Rattlesnake Solutions joined the Interpretive Ranger in presenting their highly educational and interesting program on rattlesnake safety, bringing in 52 enthusiastic park visitors.
- The cooler weather and ability to keep the entry station open all day with additional employees and park hosts staying later into the season brought an increase of 6,708 people in attendance compared to May of 2018.
- White Tank Park offered 15 interpretive programs in June with 457 attending. The Interpretive Ranger shared his expertise on reptiles and amphibians with visitors at Hassayampa River Preserve by leading a park program at the Preserve. Likewise, the Interpretive Ranger from Hassayampa has shared his birding expertise with White Tank visitors by leading birdwatching programs at White Tank.
- June wrapped up fiscal year 2019 with a 17.8% increase in White Tank Park's attendance compared to the year before. This was the highest percentage increase across the park system.
- White Tank Park offered 12 interpretive programs in July with 334 attending. Despite the heat, 60-70 avid scorpion searchers attended both night programs at the park. Jack Jenkins, White Tank etymologist volunteer, offered a program on arthropods and taught 22 park visitors everything they could want to know about bugs.
- The White Tank maintenance building was one of the first buildings built on the park property and the office space was in much need of updating and repair. Maintenance team members worked to repair the ceilings and walls, applied new paint, and laid new waterproof vinyl flooring.

BUILDING A STRONGER MARICOPA COUNTY

Parks and Recreation

FY 2020
DELIVERING SERVICE
& TRACKING
PERFORMANCE

INCREASE VISITATION TO MARICOPA COUNTY PARKS

Target: Increase park visitation annually by an average of 3.5% over the next 5 years.

ABOUT THIS MEASURE:

The Parks and Recreation Department's Vision Statement revolves around connecting more County residents with our natural open spaces and trails.

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT:

Providing quality of life opportunities in parks allows for improved mental and physical health along with family bonding opportunities.

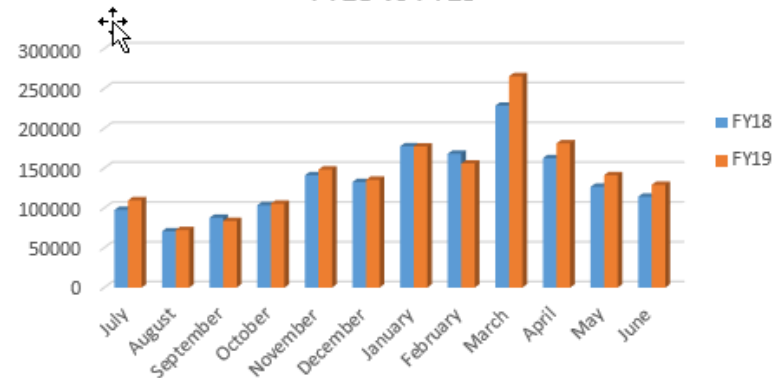
WHAT IS BEING DONE:

To expand interest and increase awareness, park interpretive rangers provide innovative outdoor recreational, environmental, and educational programs and self-directed park opportunities. The parks have also become a leader in developing and partnering with non-profit and private concessionaires in developing special events. Social media, including Facebook and Twitter, has become a staple for increasing awareness and promoting new opportunities.

**5.8%**
INCREASE PARK VISITATION

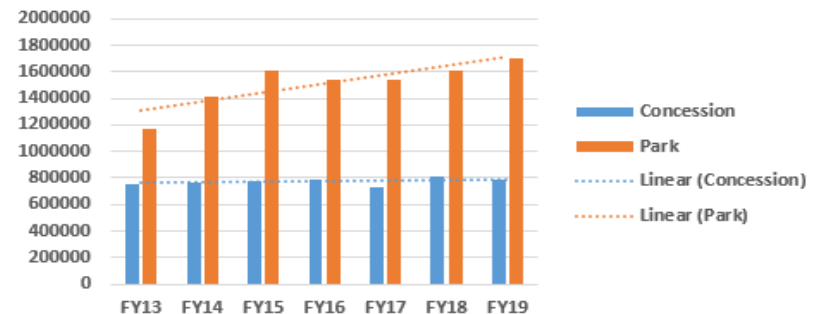
CURRENT PERFORMANCE

Park Attendance
FY18 vs FY19



HISTORICAL DATA

Park and Concession Attendance
FY13 to FY19



BUILDING A STRONGER MARICOPA COUNTY

Parks and Recreation

FY 2020

DELIVERING SERVICE & TRACKING PERFORMANCE

MAINTAIN HIGH STANDARD OF PARKLANDS AVAILABLE

Target: Maintain for residents and guests regional open space park land acreage in top 3 for most comparable park systems in Arizona.

ABOUT THIS MEASURE:

The County Park System is comprised of over 120,000 acres of park land. This ranks in the top quartile of a national study on open space parks for counties and in line with other Arizona Counties with park systems, Arizona State Parks, and City of Phoenix.

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT:

A 2017 poll of 800 residents conducted by Arizona State University's Morrison Institute indicated that they overwhelmingly agreed "Arizona's parks preserves, forests and open spaces are important." Only 3% disagreed, while 72% said they were very important and 25% described them as somewhat important.

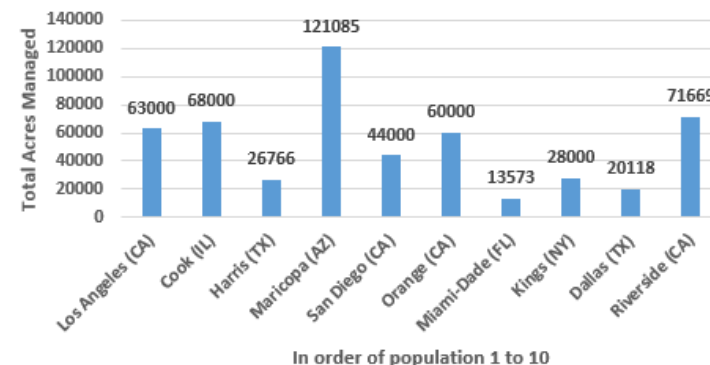
WHAT IS BEING DONE:

As population grows, Maricopa County will need to continue adding open space to maintain our high level of service. The County acquired the Hassayampa River Preserve in April 2017 from The Nature Conservancy and in 2019, received management authority for 1,046 acres known as the Vulture Mountain Cooperative Recreation Area.

 **#2 in Arizona**

CURRENT PERFORMANCE

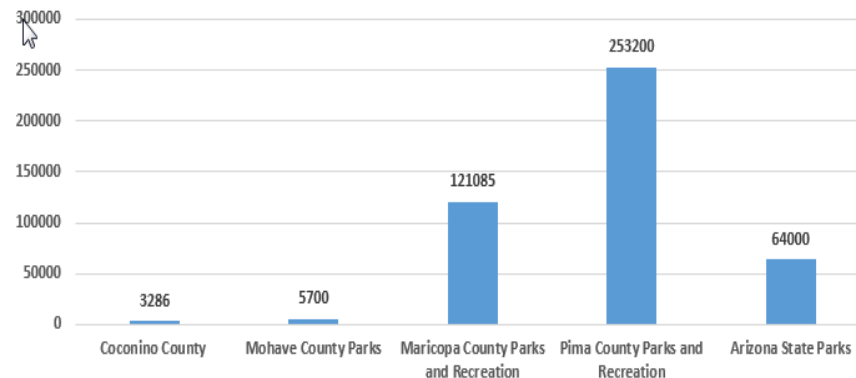
Park Acres for 10 most populous US Counties



In order of population 1 to 10

COUNTY COMPARISON

Total Acres Managed



BUILDING A STRONGER MARICOPA COUNTY

Parks and Recreation

FY 2020

DELIVERING SERVICE & TRACKING PERFORMANCE

INCREASE REGIONAL TRAIL OPPORTUNITIES

Target: Increase regional trail miles for residents and visitors by an average of 2.5% per year over the next 5 years.

ABOUT THIS MEASURE:

Over the last 5 years, trail miles in the county regional trail system have increased by 30%, primarily through the development of the 315-mile Maricopa Trail and Lake Pleasant trail network. Over the next 5 years, the County should continue to add new trails in existing parks and provide greater connectivity onto the Maricopa Trail.

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT:

According to the 2017 Arizona Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, trail related recreation is the most desired outdoor recreation activity in the state and future projections indicate a continued growing demand. The vast majority of County Park visitors (71%) participate in trail related recreation activities.

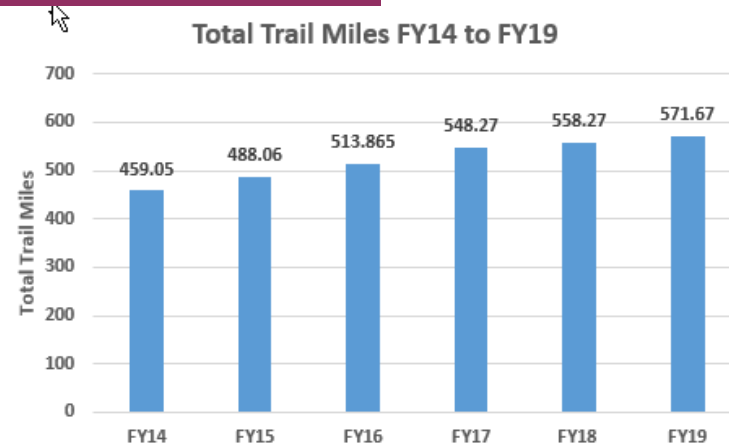
WHAT IS BEING DONE:

Every County Park has a trail plan that includes opportunities for additional trail miles. Efforts continue to complete the Maricopa Trail and in 2018, the Parks Department, in cooperation with the County Transportation Department, will begin planning for greater regional connectivity with the Maricopa Trail (Phase II).

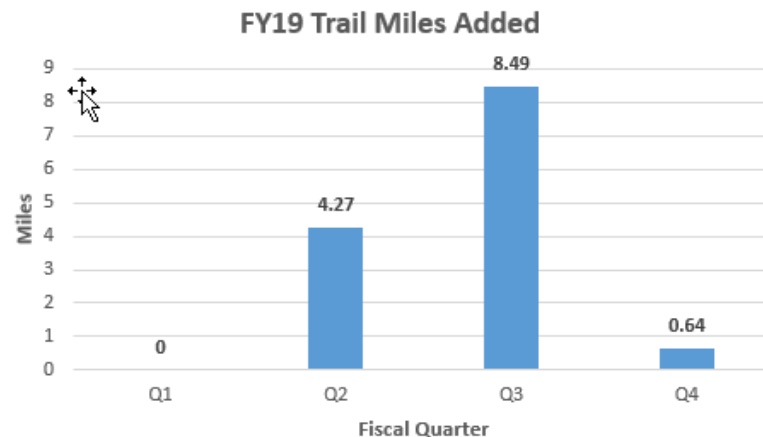
Average 4.5%/year

INCREASE AVAILABLE TRAIL MILES

CURRENT PERFORMANCE



HISTORICAL DATA



BUILDING A STRONGER MARICOPA COUNTY

Parks and Recreation

FY 2020
DELIVERING SERVICE
& TRACKING
PERFORMANCE

INCREASE VOLUNTEER ENGAGEMENT IN COUNTY PARKS

Target: Increase volunteer hours in County Parks and on County Trails by an average of 3.5% annually over the next 5 years.

ABOUT THIS MEASURE:

During the past 10 years, volunteerism in County Parks has shown a significant growth that has helped keep park operating costs low while providing quality services. A sustained growth in the program will allow for continued quality parks and trails as the County expands services in a fiscally responsible manner.

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT:

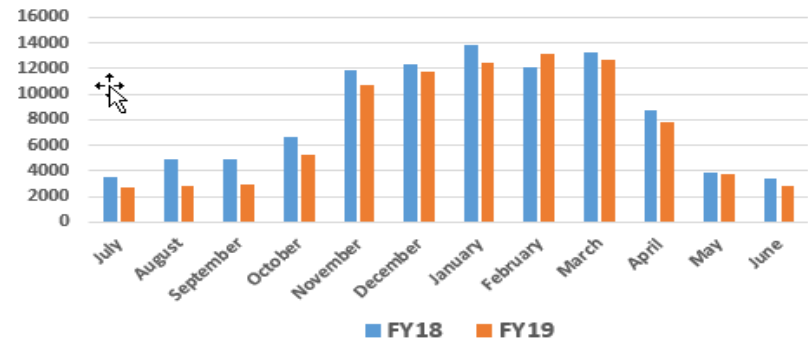
Park volunteers not only significantly supplement staffing in the parks and on the regional trails, but also provides value added services that enhance the park visitor experience. Engaged volunteers are also strong supporters and advocates for the County and the services provided.

WHAT IS BEING DONE:

In FY19, Parks Volunteer Program was revamped to use volunteers in more specific and impactful ways while also redefining what volunteer service actually means. Moving to a more targeted “day of service” model while keeping core volunteer retention high, Parks is working to ensure volunteer use is effective to meet the needs of the Department while also providing useful and engaging opportunities for our volunteers.

CURRENT PERFORMANCE

Volunteer Hours, FY18/FY19



HISTORICAL DATA

Total Hours

