



Maricopa County

PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT

MEMORANDUM

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Date: January 12, 2017
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 November/December 2016.

From the Office of the Director
 Board of Supervisors Agenda Items:

Date/Status	Tracking Number	Summary
12/7/16 Approved	C-06-17-232-M-00)	Maricopa County Parks and Trails Proclamation: Proclaim December 2016 as Maricopa County Parks and Trails month and applauds and values the Parks Commission and Supervisor Andy Kunasek for their vision and proactive approach to protect Maricopa County's natural and cultural resources for future generations.
12/7/16 Revision Approved	C-30-17-007-M-00	Proposed Revisions of the Parks Fee Schedule Public Hearing and adoption of the replacement card and the DOC kitchen fees were approved. The Hassayampa entrance fee and room rental fee were removed at this time.
12/7/16 Approved	C-06-17-236-D-00	Fund Transfer for Maricopa County Trails Projects: Parks received \$185,000 transfer from District 3's allocation of waste management funds for the purpose of acquiring easements and developing trails in the Daisy Mountains and to maintain the Maricopa Trail.
12/7/16 Approved	C-30-17-015-M-00)	Challenge Cost Share Agreement with US Forest Service: Approved cost share with Tonto National Forest for Bronco Trailhead improvement project.
12/7/16 Approved	C-30-07-011-2-01	Amendment to IGA with AZ Board of Regents for Research and Planning Projects: Approved Amendment One to exercise the first 5-year extension and other administrative changes including future scopes to be submitted and approved through Special Use Permits.
12/7/16 Approved	C-30-17-016-M-00	Land Use License with Salt River Project for installation and maintenance of Maricopa Trail and/or Sun Circle Trail signage. Approve the License for the County to install and maintain Maricopa Trail and/or Sun Circle Trail signage for various sections of the Maricopa Trail on SRP property.
12/7/16 Approved	C-30-12-014-3-01	Amendment 1 to IGA with Town of Fountain Hills for Maintenance, Improvement and Management of Outdoor Recreation Opportunities: Approved Amendment One to exercise the first 5-year extension and other administrative changes for the mutually beneficial relationship for access through the McDowell Mountain Preserve and McDowell Mountain Regional Park.
12/7/16 Approved	C-30-17-017-M-00	Artifact Loan Contract – Outgoing with Huhugam Heritage Center for Artifacts on Exhibit at the Discovery Center at Lake Pleasant Regional Park: Approve the contract for providing loan of eighty-three (83) artifacts from the Central Arizona Project archaeological collection for exhibition at the Discovery Center at Lake Pleasant Regional Park.
12/7/16 Approved	C-73-16-002-7-01	JOC Job Order Contractor Increase: Increased contract value from original award of \$2.4M to \$5M.

Office of the Director continued:

- **Hassayampa River Preserve at Vulture Mountain:**

County Attorneys and Real Estate are working together with Parks and The Nature Conservancy in finalizing several documents pertaining to Hassayampa River Preserve (HRP) that initially were slated for the December 7, 2016 Board of Supervisors Agenda: 1) A Gift Deed with Conservation Easement (Deed) along with a Donation Agreement to the County for the existing Nature Center (encompassing 77 acres, a well and specific water rights); 2) A Conservation Easement in favor of TNC as an integral part of the Deed for TNC to preserve and protect in perpetuity the conservation values of the HRP; and 3) A Lease Agreement for the County to manage approximately 789 acres of the HRP as provided in the Vulture Mountains Cooperative Recreation Management Area Master Plan and also to maintain TNC's conservation values and purpose.

Upon final review there were a number of items including a non-appropriation of funds clause which had been removed and some requirements in the Conservation Easement that caused the Board of Supervisors to ask the County Attorney and Real Estate Division to revisit all of the documents. The County has issued a License Agreement with TNC so the County Parks Department could begin operations while the documents language is being negotiated and revised to accomplish the conservation elements important to TNC while not obligating future County Boards to unnecessary restrictions. All parties are working diligently to come to agreeable terms.

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.

Financial/Budget Status:

- Budget preparation for FY18 is underway. The guidelines for the new system have been released and we have received our targets for next year. Our submission deadline is February 3, 2017.
- FY17 forecasting has been challenging due to CGI/Performance Budget system setbacks. A second forecast was just completed through November close and all funds appear to be in excellent shape (see Appropriated Budget Check below). A brief summary of Parks' budget forecast through November 2016 close:
 - Donation Fund (F243) is reporting over budget for expenditures and revenue. This is due to a higher than anticipated requests for memorial benches. It is anticipated that an adjustment to expenditure and revenue authority will be needed in FY17.
 - Enhancement Fund (F241) is reporting revenue 3.5% over anticipated year to date budget (\$175,100).
 - Lake Fund (F240) is reporting revenue 4.5% over anticipated year to date budget (\$124,856).

- All other funds are forecasting expenditures and revenue at year to date budget amounts.

Appropriated Budget Check - All - REV

Department Code	Name	Fund Code	Name	Appropriation Unit		Expenditures			Revenue		
				Code	Name	Appropriation	Detail Budget	Variance	ppropriation	Detail Budget	Variance
D300	Parks and Recreation	100	General	NRNP	Non Recurring Non Project	50,000	50,000	0			
D300	Parks and Recreation	100	General	OPER	Operating	874,325	874,325	0			
D300	Parks and Recreation	100	General	PKRR	Parks Restrooms Upgrades	312,919	312,919	0			
D300	Parks and Recreation	225	Spur Cross Ranch Conservation	NRNP	Non Recurring Non Project	163,075	163,075	0	30,837	30,837	0
D300	Parks and Recreation	225	Spur Cross Ranch Conservation	OPER	Operating	272,132	272,132	0	272,132	272,132	0
D300	Parks and Recreation	230	Parks and Recreation Grants	NRNP	Non Recurring Non Project	34,696	34,696	0			
D300	Parks and Recreation	230	Parks and Recreation Grants	OPER	Operating					48,828	-48,828
D300	Parks and Recreation	239	Parks Souvenir	OPER	Operating	396,182	396,182	0	396,183	396,382	-199
D300	Parks and Recreation	240	Lake Pleasant Recreation Services	NRNP	Non Recurring Non Project	1,264,809	1,264,809	0	380,233	380,233	0
D300	Parks and Recreation	240	Lake Pleasant Recreation Services	OPER	Operating	2,640,393	2,640,393	0	2,742,031	2,866,887	-124,856
D300	Parks and Recreation	241	Parks Enhancement	NRNP	Non Recurring Non Project	1,775,340	1,775,340	0	610,129	610,129	0
D300	Parks and Recreation	241	Parks Enhancement	OPER	Operating	4,893,687	4,893,687	0	4,859,106	5,134,206	-175,100
D300	Parks and Recreation	241	Parks Enhancement	PKRR	Parks Restrooms Upgrades	342,000	342,000	0			
D300	Parks and Recreation	243	Parks Donations	NRNP	Non Recurring Non Project	468,166	468,166	0			
D300	Parks and Recreation	243	Parks Donations	OPER	Operating	25,404	30,633	-5,229	25,404	30,633	-5,229
D300	Parks and Recreation	243	Parks Donations	WMD3	Daisy Mountain And Trails	185,000	185,000	0	185,000		185,000

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Procurement Services:

- The first quarter was exceptionally busy with the Parks preparing for the coming season and a slower ordering process as staff learned the new CGI system.
- As of December 28, 2016, 575 requests for purchases have been processed for FY17. This is an increase of approximately 100 requests for purchases over the same time period last year.

Accounting Services:

- The new system provided an opportunity for Parks to review our current revenue reporting structure and make some needed enhancements to help track the various revenue sources. Previously, the various revenue streams were coded in chunks and with universal sub-objects used to delineate the specific revenue (i.e. 650-13 could be annual passes and 650-11 could be camping). The new system allows for Department specific coding, providing a stronger reporting structure that is specific to Park's needs.
- A new process has been implemented to review outstanding monies owed to Parks for reservations and other services. Initial review shows Parks has \$1,223,750 in uncollected revenue. However, this amount includes future contract payments owed and is not a correct measure of late monies owed. With more refinement, the process will be utilized to request payment for overdue accounts in a more timely and procedurally sound fashion.

Contracts:

- **Lake Pleasant:** Staff will be meeting with County attorneys in January to discuss an amendment to the agreement with Desert Troon (Scorpion Bay) to include their proposed future improvements for expansion, i.e. dock inspired cabins and new dry dock parking area. We will also be addressing possible future solicitations for Highway 74 commercial improvements.
- **Adobe:** Parks continues to work together with the County's Chief Financial Officer for the proposed Legacy Sports Complex at Adobe Dam Regional Park. We anticipate a meeting with the CFO and Developer to discuss the review of the analysis and renegotiation of the agreement to take place in January.

Information Technology/Facilities:

- Based on one year of telecomm billing (October 2015 to October 2016), there has been an increase of 39% to the cost of services. Century Link has been upgrading services and as improvements are made to technology, the cost of service seems to rise as well. Fortunately, it does appear internet speed is improving at some parks (but improvement is still needed at others).

Human Resources:

- Welcome to the following new employees:
 - Lauren Bromley - Parks and Open Space Planner, HQ
 - Nikki Bunnell – Interpretive Ranger, San Tan
 - Jo Ann Lezeau – Contact Station Assistant, San Tan
 - Blake Spanier – Park Office Assistant Specialized, San Tan
 - Aldo Gonzalez - Contact Station Assistant, Usery
 - Robert Mansfield – Park Maintenance, Usery
 - John Bland – Interpretive Ranger, DOC
- Transfers/Promotions:
 - Peter Marsala – Park Maintenance, San Tan (moves to full time)
 - Jessica Bland – Park Supervisor, Hassayampa/Vulture Mountain (promotion from Interpretive Ranger at White Tank)
- Farewell and best of luck to the following:
 - Javier Ortega – Contact Station Assistant – Estrella
 - Gene Davis – Contact Station Assistant – Usery
- Open positions and recruitments:
 - Contact Station Assistant (Temporary) – Lake Pleasant – Pending Recruitment
 - Contact Station Assistant (Full time) – Lake Pleasant – Pending new hire
 - Park Maintenance Worker, McDowell – Recruitment underway
 - Park Maintenance Worker, Lake Pleasant – Pending new hire
 - Interpretive Ranger (Temporary, 2 positions) – Lake Pleasant – Pending new hire
 - Trades Specialist Supervisor – Trades – Recruitment underway
 - Trades Specialist – Trades – Recruitment underway

Volunteer Program:

- The previous system used county wide to track employee and volunteer training and transcripts called Pathlore, was gradually phased out over the course of the fall to December 31. In that time, parks administrative staff has attended multiple trainings on the new system, known as “The Hub”. Due to outdated coding, the transcripts will not be transferred to the new system, and the information will be manually updated. This is a complicated change, but was necessary for best managing this information.
- There were several Lake Pleasant shoreline clean up events throughout the fall including under water cleanup efforts by Scuba Diving groups.
- On November 5th, The Conservation Alliance helped with the planting of a pollinator garden at Cave Creek Regional Park, in honor of *Keep Phoenix Beautiful Day*. Thirty (30) volunteers assisted in planting the native plants that attract pollinating insects.
- FY17 Volunteer Hours:

	Jul-16	Aug-16	Sep-16	Oct-16	Nov-16	Dec-16
Total Dept. Hours	2945	3146	5113	6283	9900	10972
Financial Savings	\$69,384	\$74,120	\$120,462	\$148,027	\$233,244	\$258,500
YTD Hours	2945	6091	11204	17487	27387	38359
YTD Savings	\$69,384	\$143,504	\$263,966	\$411,994	\$645,238	\$903,738
Prev. Year Month Total Hours	3739.25	2948.5	4567.95	6827.5	11319.23	11966.43
Prev. Year YTD Hours	3739.25	6687.75	11255.7	18083.2	29402.43	41368.86
Prev. Year Financial Savings	\$86,264	\$154,286	\$259,669	\$417,179	\$678,314	\$954,380
Number of Volunteers-current month	78	75	502	228	371	218
Current Value-\$23.56						
Previous Value-\$23.07						

Planning and Development Division

- The Planning and Development Division recently completed the Andy Kunasek Trailhead renovations on the Maricopa Trail for the dedication on December 10, 2016. The division project manager, trades section, and trails section worked together with Caliente Construction to install a new trailhead monument sign, dedication plaques, granite driveway, picnic table, and new fence and gate hardware.
- Ramada renovations are underway at White Tank Mountain Regional Park. This capital project includes repairing, sealing, and coating of roofs, new electrical and lighting, abrasive blasting of old paint, and application of clear concrete sealer on all concrete surfaces.
- Turf renovations continue at Estrella Mountain Regional Park. New sidewalk and shade structure pads have been installed and new concrete picnic tables have been delivered. Next steps include a demonstration project for tree planting, decomposed granite, and vehicular barriers.
- New Parking lot striping at Lake Pleasant Regional Park has recently been completed at Lake Pleasant's 10-lane and 4-lane boat ramp parking areas as well as the park headquarters.

Trades Crew:

- The Trades section recently completed parking lot improvements at San Tan Mountain Regional Park, Goldmine Trailhead. The parking lot grading was completed to level the drive and parking spaces and new parking space delineators were fabricated and installed to better mark the parking spaces for visitors.
- The Trades section recently completed the Cave Creek Park Group Campground project. New water hook ups, decomposed granite, and a loop roadway were installed as part of the capital improvements in the park.

Trails Crew:

- The Trails Crew has been active working on trails at several Parks. Work includes the County Line and Ruidoso Trails at Usery Mountain Regional Park. Improvements include storm damage repairs, improvement of the trail tread, and maintenance of drainage structures.
- Lake Pleasant Regional Park work includes repairs and cleanup of Yavapai Point Trail.
- White Tank Regional Park work includes trail repairs and cleanup of Grey Fox Trail and Roadrunner Trail.
- The Trails Crew also completed maintenance and drainage repair on the Pemberton Trail at McDowell Mountain Regional Park.

Maricopa Trail and Trail Facilities:

- The following trail segments are currently being worked on – 9, 11, 12, 20, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 33, 35 and 78.
- The following portions of the Maricopa Trail are in review by the Arizona State Land Department:
 - Segment 35 – North and south of I-10 on the Tuthill Road alignment.
 - Segment 12 – North of SR303 on Lake Pleasant Road.
 - Segment 11 – East of SR303 on Happy Valley Parkway.
- The following portion has completed an Environmental Assessment:
 - Segment 22 – Tonto National Forest – Bronco Trailhead to Scottsdale City Limits – 15.5 miles. Tonto National Forest posted to their website and the paper of record the Environment Assessment and plans for a 45 day Comment period on December 2, 2016.
 - Construction is expected to begin February 2017; dependent on permitting.
- Agreement preparation/negotiations:
 - City of Phoenix – Segment 9 – Pre-construction meeting was held on December 22nd. Construction with Arizona Conservation Corps is scheduled to begin February 2017.
 - City of Scottsdale – Segments 23, 24 25 and 26 – Scottsdale City Council expected approval spring 2017.
 - U.S. Bureau of Reclamation – Segment 27 – License approved by the BOS December 7th.
 - City of Buckeye – Segment 35 – in review.
 - City of Avondale – Segment 9 and Segment 1 – part of Avondale Master Plan
 - Bureau of Land Management – Submitted plan of proposed route between Estrella Mountain Park and Buckeye Hills Park.

- Maintenance
 - Inspected and maintained Segments 13, 14, 15, 16, 18, 20 and 35.
 - Segment 20 Spur Cross to Bronco Trailhead – AZCC Camping Crew completed major maintenance between 11/15/16 and 12/5/16.

Parks Operations Report

Cave Creek Regional Park:

- In November, the park hosted 15 interpretive programs with 192 participants attending.
- The highlighted program for the month was *Sunset Ride* and *Fireside*; this new program gives visitors an opportunity to ride off into the sunset with our wranglers and then join our ranger for some fireside fun.
- In November the *Annual Cave Creek Cactus Classic* was hosted at Cave Creek and Spur Cross with 311 riders in attendance.
- In December, the park hosted 14 interpretive programs with 195 attendees.
- The highlighted program for the month was the *Clay Mine Adventure* which was offered twice this month with total of 55 visitors in attendance.
- The Trades Crew and Park staff completed the installation of six new campsites.

Estrella Mountain Regional Park:

- Estrella Park had 32 public programs in November with 824 people in attendance. The highlights include a *Birds of Prey* presentation with Liberty Wildlife bringing raptors, the *Stargazing for Everyone* event, the *River Walk* and the new *Meditation Night Hike*. *Homeschool Delight* and *Passport Estrella* continue to be popular public offerings.
- Estrella Park had 27 public programs in December with 405 people in attendance. Level 3 of *Passport Estrella* was completed and the group is now moving on to the backcountry hikes, including a final 15-mile hike in the first week of February.
- The horseback rental concession has been gaining momentum through the cooler months. Wagon rides and cowboy cookouts are doing well.
- Hiking activities increased in October, November and December. The park in general was slow during the holidays.
- Park staff attended Playground Safety and Inspection training and Work Order System training.

Lake Pleasant Regional Park:

- Lake Pleasant offered 31 interpretive programs during the months of November and December to the enjoyment of 431 program participants. The highlights of the months included *Rattlesnakes of Arizona*, a *Journey with the Ranger* (tour of the Discovery Center discussing the history of Lake Pleasant) and *Reindeer Stories*.
- The Maricopa County Sheriff's Office chain gang came out on two occasions to assist the park with trash cleanup at Two Cow Cove and trimmed vegetation growing along the guardrails along a 1-mile emergency access/maintenance road. They did a wonderful job.
- Four volunteer groups come out to clean up Jet Ski Point, Fireman's Cove, Castle Creek Boat Ramp, and Desert Tortoise Road. The efforts included land and in-water cleanup efforts to collect trash and removed 35 bags (55 gallon sized) worth of trash from the park.
- Most of the park staff, volunteers, and park hosts successfully completed the annual host training for several training topics such as blood borne pathogens, fire extinguisher awareness and personal protective equipment (PPE). A few members have been rescheduled for January due to coverage needs at the park.
- The maintenance staff completed the chainsaw training at Cave Creek.
- The Agua Fria Conservation Area construction project is progressing nicely. The septic system has been installed. The host site foundations have been laid and conduit for electrical has been set, along with the infrastructure for the water lines. The shade structures for the host sites are expected to be installed in January, with a potential for the host sites to be ready in February or March.

- During the month of January, the park will be working with a contractor to have the 10-Lane and Castle Creek Boat Ramp parking lots restriped to be ready for the upcoming season.

McDowell Mountain Regional Park:

- In the month of November, 16 interpretive programs were offered at the park with 138 people in attendance.
- Two Hosts from McDowell Park attended a course with NASP (National Archery in Schools Program) in order to become certified to teach/assist with our upcoming Archery programs/classes this spring.
- The Park Supervisor, Park Ranger and various Park Hosts participated in the Fountain Hills Arts Fair by providing an information booth on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, November 11–13. Various park materials and critters were on display along with park information, maps, etc. Approximately 800 people visited our booth during the 3-day event.
- McDowell Park staff worked closely with the AZ Republic in order to host a program for their *Explore Arizona Outdoors* campaign. The program took place in the late afternoon/evening of the National Take A Hike Day, November 17, and included a brief stop at our Nature Center where participants could visit our critter room and gift shop. Both the park supervisor and interpretive ranger were available to answer questions. Participants then enjoyed a brief presentation by Ranger Amy along with a guided 2 mile flashlight hike. 48 people, including youth, attended the program.
- The interpretive ranger hosted our first Introduction to Archery class on Saturday, November 19; although more than 20 people responded, Ranger Amy chose to have a fairly small class as she is new to teaching the course; 5 people participated.
- Three special events took place during the month of November, *Ragnar Trail Relay* took place with 2,295 runners participating plus nearly 700 spectators. *Lead, Follow or Get Out of My Way* had 102 (equestrian) riders participate plus nearly 50 spectators in attendance. *12 Hours of Fury* had 362 riders (mountain bike) participants plus approximately 150 spectators were in attendance.
- REI hosted a number of classes at McDowell Mountain Park in November; *Introduction to Photography* on November 5, *Introduction to Maps & Compass*, and *Introduction to GPS* with approximately 15 people attending each class.
- Desert Foothills Mountain Bike Association partnered with REI to host an “Opt Out Day” at McDowell Mountain Park on Friday, November 25, 2016. They offered free demos, provided information and answered questions.
- McDowell Park finished completing 4 new tent camping sites in our Ironwood Picnic Area, one specifically designed as a family camp area, for large group camping. Final work was completed by a local scout troop who donated the materials and built new fire pits for three of those sites.
- In the month of December, 22 interpretive programs were offered at the park with 96 people in attendance. The most popular single event of the month was the *Become a JR Ranger* program, which drew 19 youth.
- Two special events took place during the month of December, *McDowell Mountain Frenzy* (Trail Run) took place on Saturday, December 3 with 483 participants and approximately 200 spectators. *Dawn to Dusk* took place on Saturday, December 10 with 598 riders (mountain bike) participating along with approximately 250 spectators in attendance.
- REI hosted a number of classes at McDowell Mountain Park in December; *IMBA Instructor Certification Program*; *Introduction to Mountain Biking* and *Introduction to Maps & Compass*.
- Arizona Outback Adventures hosted a bike tour/ride for approximately 15 people.
- Park Maintenance and one of our Park Hosts completed construction of a much needed new entry way floor at the park's Visitor Center.

San Tan Mountain Regional Park:

- The Park's reptile feeding had our Nature Center full of families excited to see our critters eat, with 21 park guest wowing and gasping as our critter munched away. Everyone left with, “did you see that.”
- *Sonora Desert Survival* is always a big turnout with 18 park guest ready to learn the ins and outs of safe hiking. On display was the latest in hiking equipment, with handouts on the basic items recommended for a safe day's hike. Much of the program was spent answering questions, such as “can I cut open a cactus and drink the water?” The best question came from an old movie fable of John Wayne: “can I cut and suck a snake bite?”

- *Music and Poems of the Old West*, was held on a beautiful night with 15 park guests. One of our Park volunteers is a professional singer and cowboy poet and entertained our guests under the stars with a warm fire in the fire pit. Laughter and applause came from our night guests as they sang along and played handmade tambourines.
- The park is now fully staffed with a new park ranger, office assistant and full-time park maintenance worker.

Spur Cross Conservation Area:

- The Park hosted 15 interpretive programs in November with 469 participants attending.
- The highlighted programs for the month: *Desert Discovery Days* with 322 participants and *Moonlight Hike* with 28 visitors in attendance.
- In December, the park hosted 19 programs with 183 participants in attendance.
- The highlighted programs for the month: *Full Moon* with 37 participants and *Ruins of Spur Cross* with 22 visitors in attendance.

Usery Mountain Regional Park:

- Usery Mountain Regional Park offered 36 interpretive programs in November totaling 1,043 participants. In December the park offered 37 interpretive programs totaling 604 participants.
- Two-Wheel Jones hosted the *Showdown Bike Race*, an 8-hour mountain bike race through the Sonoran desert. 173 riders raced to see how many laps they could ride in the 8-hour time limit.
- Aravaipa Running hosted the *Pass Mountain Trail Run* as part of the Desert Runner Trail Series. 323 runners participated in the all day running event.
- Two park maintenance staff attended chainsaw training. Staff will now be able to use the chainsaw and pole saw for park projects.
- The park received and installed a memorial bench on Pass Mountain Trail.

White Tank Mountain Regional Park:

- White Tank Park staff and volunteers provided 21 programs, outreaches, and events in November with 310 participants attending.
- Several events took place during November's fabulous weather. One of the biggest events of the year, *The AZ High School Mountain Bike Race*, was held on the first Sunday of November. Dozens of teams camped in the Youth Areas, Family Campground and at the Competitive Track as parents and grandparents came out to support the youth for two days.
- The Parks Department also offered two free days in November – Veterans Day and National Take A Hike Day. White Tank Park gave out hundreds of free tickets each day. The interpretive ranger set up a booth at Waterfall Trailhead to teach visitors about desert hiking.
- The Arizona Site Stewards for Salt River Valley Region hosted a Meet & Greet at the White Tank Nature Center to plan for the year ahead. Dan Rucker, the Regional Coordinator, is doing a great job of organizing and reaching out to the land owners.
- White Tank Park is now fully staffed with hosts and training was conducted on November 18th. With more hosts, volunteers and staff on board this year, broader aspects of park operations will be covered thus raising the level of customer service to park visitors.
- White Tank Park staff and volunteers provided 16 programs, outreaches, and events in December with 722 in attendance. The annual *Luminary Walk and Campfire* was increasingly popular this year with a record setting 600 people attending.
- The park had two small events in December: *The Mountain Bike & Trail Run* and the *Cactus Flower Trail Run*.
- The Nature Wildlife Pond has been suffering with low water due to the well pump shut-down. AZ Game & Fish was contacted for advice and recommended that staff dry out the pond, clean out the overgrowth of plants and population of unknown fish. AZ Game & Fish organized students and biologists to net and capture as many endangered Gila Topminnow and Desert Pupfish as possible for research and conservation. This muddy activity was successfully accomplished mid-December. The AZ Game & Fish will amend the current Safe Harbor Agreement with the park once the pond is ready for fish.