

Date: March 15, 2024
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 **January and February 2024**.

Office of the Director

Prickly Pedal Race: The Prickly Pedal Race returned to the Maricopa Trail on January 20, 2024, after a four-year absence. 250 registered racers began the 36-mile trek from the Town of Cave Creek with the winner crossing the finish line at Lake Pleasant Regional Park in 2:41:17. The awards ceremony and After-Party were held at the 10-lane Boat Ramp.

[2024 Prickly Pedal Race video](#)

The race was hosted by Aravaipa Rides with proceeds supporting the Maricopa Trail + Park Foundation. Registration for the January 19, 2025, [Prickly Pedal](#) race is already open!

Free Admission Days: Each year, Maricopa County Parks and Arizona State Parks offers free day-use admission days.

- Maricopa County Parks - Veteran's Day (November 11) and Take a Hike Day (November 17).
- Arizona State Parks – Martin Luther King's Day for AZ residents (January 15) and Veteran's Day (November 11).

Board of Supervisors Agenda Items:

Date/ Status	Tracking Number	Summary
1/10/2024 Approved	C-06-24-401-X-00	Donations for Parks and Recreation: In accordance with County Policy A2508, accept the monthly donation report received from Parks and Recreation for November 2023, for a Cash Value of \$1,763.57.
1/24/2024 Approved	C-30-20-009-M-01	Amendment to the Joint Program and Marketing Agreement with Recreational Equipment Inc. (REI): Approved Amendment One for an extension of 5 years beginning February 1, 2024, through January 31, 2029.
1/24/2024 Approved	C-30-21-022-X-01	Amendment to the Joint Program and Marketing Agreement with Aravaipa Running LLC: Approved Amendment One for an extension of 5 years beginning February 1, 2024, through January 31, 2029.
1/24/2024 Approved	C-06-24-478-X-00	Donations for Parks and Recreation: Under County Policy A2508, accept the monthly donation report received from Parks and Recreation for December 2023, for a Cash Value of \$2,205.31.
2/7/2024 Approved	C-30-23-000-X-01	Amendment to Joint Program and Marketing Agreement with SanTan Shredders LLC: Approved Amendment One to extend the term for 5 years.
2/7/2024 Approved	C-73-24-046-X-00	Master Planning Services for Regional County Parks: Contract awarded to J2 Engineering and Environmental Design to provide professional master planning services for the Parks.
2/28/2024 Approved	C-06-24-551-X-00	Donations for Parks and Recreation: In accordance with County Policy A2508, accept the monthly donation report received from Parks and Recreation for January 2024, for a Cash Value of \$1,732.55.



Parks & Recreation

41835 N. Castle Hot Springs Rd.
Morristown, AZ 85342

Administration/Finance Division

Parks Visitor Attendance Report (FY24 through February): Page 12

FY24 Budget Report (Period 8)

Report ID: FIN-BA-MC010		Budget to Actual										Page 1 of 1		
Run Date: 03/08/2024		by Department, Fund and Appropriation Unit Group												
Run Time: 7:04:33 AM		Fiscal Year: 2024					Period: 8							
Dept	Dept Name	Fund	Fund Name	Approp Group	Approp Group Name	Revised Revenue	Actual Revenue	Revenue Variance	Revised Expenditures	Actual Expenditures	Expenditure Variance	Budgeted Structure Balance	Actual Structural Balance	Structural Balance Variance
D300	Parks and Re	100	General	OPER	Operating	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$820,466	\$730,206	\$90,260	(\$820,466)	(\$730,206)	\$90,260
D300	Parks and Re	225	Spr Cross Ra	NRNP	NonRecr NonPrijt	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$106,664	\$106,664	\$0	(\$106,664)		\$106,664
D300	Parks and Re	225	Spr Cross Ra	OPER	Operating	\$217,610	\$204,590.94	(\$13,019)	\$232,553	\$194,146	\$38,407	(\$14,943)	\$10,444	\$25,387
D300	Parks and Re	230	Parks&Rec Gi	NRNP	NonRecr NonPrijt	\$392,131	\$259,947.94	(\$132,183)	\$453,864	\$160,082	\$293,782	(\$61,733)	\$99,866	\$161,599
D300	Parks and Re	239	Parks Souven	OPER	Operating	\$187,901	\$217,488.22	\$29,587	\$184,308	\$201,174	(\$16,866)	\$3,593	\$16,314	\$12,721
D300	Parks and Re	240	Lk Plsnt Rc S	NRNP	NonRecr NonPrijt	\$0	\$5,371.79	\$5,372	\$556,664	\$275,114	\$281,550	(\$556,664)	(\$269,742)	\$286,922
D300	Parks and Re	240	Lk Plsnt Rc S	OPER	Operating	\$2,466,390	\$2,444,019.24	(\$22,371)	\$2,903,571	\$2,668,975	\$234,596	(\$437,181)	(\$224,956)	\$212,225
D300	Parks and Re	241	Parks Enhncn	NRNP	NonRecr NonPrijt	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$919,912	\$264,932	\$654,980	(\$919,912)	(\$264,932)	\$654,980
D300	Parks and Re	241	Parks Enhncn	OPER	Operating	\$4,696,550	\$4,820,260.21	\$123,710	\$4,997,452	\$5,129,729	(\$132,277)	(\$300,902)	(\$309,489)	(\$8,567)
D300	Parks and Re	243	Parks Donatic	NRNP	NonRecr NonPrijt	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$10,008	\$10,128	(\$120)	(\$10,008)	(\$10,128)	(\$120)
D300	Parks and Re	243	Parks Donatic	OPER	Operating	\$25,440	\$53,902.53	\$28,463	\$25,432	\$4,154	\$21,278	\$8	\$49,749	\$49,741
D300	Parks and Re	243	Parks Donatic	WMD3	DaisyMtnTrfls	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$16,664	\$16,664	\$0	(\$16,664)		\$16,664
D300	Parks and Re	296	Coronavirus F	NRNP	NonRecr NonPrijt	\$12,523,516	\$1,760,085.77	(\$10,763,430)	\$12,523,524	\$1,760,086	\$10,763,438	(\$8)	\$0	\$8
Sum:						\$20,509,538	\$9,765,667	(\$10,743,871)	\$23,751,082	\$11,398,727	\$12,352,355	(\$3,241,544)	(\$1,633,060)	\$1,608,484

Human Resources

- Welcome/Promotions/Transfers
 - Rhonda Troiani, Contact Station Assistant (P/T Temp) Cave Creek, 1/04/2024.
 - Haley Demitropulos, Contact Station Assistant, White Tanks, 1/04/2024.
 - Jacqueline Vallejos, Interpretive Ranger, Lake Pleasant, 1/08/2024
 - Tamera Orleans, Contact Station Assistant, Lake Pleasant, MCSO Transfer, 2/19/2024.
 - Amber Gribler, Administrative Assistant, Lake Pleasant HQ(Promo), 2/19/2024
 - Misty Garcia, Park Asset and Inventory Coordinator, Lake Pleasant, 2/20/2024
 - Kristy Richardson, Contact Station Assistant, Lake Pleasant, 2/21/2024.
 - Micheal Weber, Park Supervisor, McDowell, 2/27/2024
- Farewells
 - Grady Hudson, Park Supervisor, White Tanks, 1/02/2024
 - Crystal Pope, Contact Station Assistant, Lake Pleasant, 1/17/2024.
- Vacancies
 - Park Supervisor, Hassayampa
 - Park Supervisor, White Tanks
 - Interpretive Ranger, Desert Outdoor Center

Park Operations Division

Natural Resources

- The Natural Resource Specialist attended the 2024 Arizona Master Naturalists Conference presenting on the Chapter's 2023 highlights, which included 1,599 service hours, of which 991 hours were from Maricopa County Parks, 309 from Desert Botanic Garden, Education, and Stewardship, and 299 from Libertyville Wildlife.
- Desert Defenders:
 - Hosted two trainings for the Interpretive Rangers (IR) and Desert Defender Stewards (DDS) to help with invasive species identification and how to use the ARC-GIS Field Map app.



Parks & Recreation

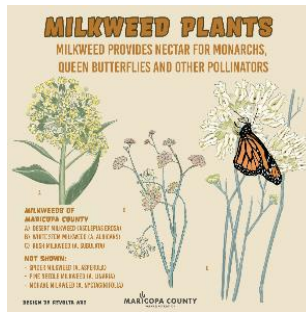
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- Regional Arizona Stinknet Brochure: Creating a brochure for land managers with the Arizona Department of Agriculture, the Southwest Vegetation Management Association, the Tonto National Forest, and several other governments and nonprofit organizations.
- Southwest Vegetation Management Association: Worked with partners to update the SWVMA.org website related to the top 24 invasive plant species in Arizona, providing information about each plant, why they are a threat, and links to the best management practices.
- Pesticide Program: Working with the University of Arizona's Maricopa Cooperative Extension, prepared and trained ten Maricopa County Parks staff for the Arizona Department of Agriculture Core Pesticide Application Test.



AZ DFFM Fire Fuel reduction project

- The Pollinator Garden blip two examples of the signs (Bees and Milkweed)



Volunteers

- Training:
 - In-person safety training (9 sessions) was completed during November, December, and January.
 - The Volunteer Coordinator has completed all in-person annual safety training for the Core Volunteers
- Nugget of History - in 1981, the Parks Commission meeting minutes reported the following:
 - 34 Park Hosts were enrolled in the program - today, we have 136.
 - As in 1981, our park hosts represent regions throughout the United States and Canada.
 - In 1981, the age ranged from 41 to 74. Today they range in age from 18 to 83 years old.

Hours (FY24 through February):

TOTAL Volunteer Hours, by month	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	YTD Total	Year End Total	Year End % Change
FY24 - All Hours	3,759	4,148	4,158	7,290	10,170	11,379	12,796	11,492	0	0	0	0	65,249	65,249	-3%
FY23 - All Hours	3,927	4,399	4,844	7,201	10,898	12,187	11,935	11,927	12,756	9,092	4,534	4,335	67,318	98,035	0%
FY22 - All Hours	3,268	3,362	4,038	8,069	11,154	13,295	13,935	10,061	13,144	8,954	4,835	3,777	67,182	97,892	3%

Financial Impact of Volunteers, by Month	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	YTD Total	Year End Total	Hourly Rate
FY24 Financial Impact	\$119,536	\$131,906	\$132,224	\$231,822	\$323,406	\$361,852	\$406,913	\$365,446	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,074,918	\$2,074,918	\$31.80
FY23 Financial Impact	\$117,614	\$131,750	\$145,078	\$215,670	\$326,395	\$365,001	\$357,453	\$357,214	\$382,042	\$272,305	\$135,793	\$129,833	\$2,016,174	\$2,936,148	\$29.95
FY22 Financial Impact	\$93,269	\$95,951	\$115,245	\$230,289	\$318,335	\$379,439	\$397,705	\$287,141	\$375,130	\$255,547	\$137,991	\$107,796	\$1,917,374	\$2,793,838	\$28.54



Special Days of Service event listings:	Date	Attendance	Hours
Desert Defenders - White Tank	1/6/2024	12	48
Desert Defenders - White Tank	1/9/2024	6	24
White Tank - Invasive Removal	1/12/2024	4	16
Estrella - Invasive Removal	1/13/2024	10	31
Lake - MLK Day - Clean-Up	1/15/2024	37	111
White Tank - Invasive Removal	1/20/2024	14	56
Estrella - Invasive Removal	1/23/2024	1	2
White Tank - Invasive Removal	1/26/2024	7	28
Estrella - Invasive Removal	1/27/2024	6	18
White Tank - Invasive Removal	2/3/2024	6	18
White Tank - Invasive Removal	2/6/2024	4	13
Cave Creek - Invasive Removal	2/8/2024	2	8
Lake - Clean-Up	2/9/2024	22	44
White Tank - Invasive Removal	2/9/2024	4	14
Lake Clean-Up	2/16/2024	31	62
Estrella - Invasive Removal	2/20/2024	4	14
White Tank - Invasive Removal	2/23/2024	7	28
Usery - Invasive Removal	2/24/2024	7	24
White Tank - Invasive Removal	2/27/2024	6	24

Trades

- During January, the Trades Crew
 - Completed 47 calls for park service.
 - Completed 23 locator service calls.
- During February, the Trades Crew
 - Completed 26 calls for park service.
 - Completed 31 locator service calls.
- Parks:
 - Hassayampa - Lighting Project.
 - Usery - Ongoing - Renovation of restrooms at the Maintenance compound.
 - Desert Outdoor Center - Ongoing - Lighting upgrade.
 - Adobe - Electricians met with Phoenix Pumps and Brent Bones Controls to train on new variable-frequency drive controls for the water tank pumps.
 - San Tan – Completed - Grading Goldmine's old parking lot for temporary use. Relocated the generator concrete pad to the old parking lot. Removed the existing window unit and installed a new unit at the temporary building office.
 - White Tank – Completed - demo area #4 to accommodate the new ramada/playground construction. Removed all wiring, pedestals, and inground junction boxes, and serviced the old ramadas and playground. Terminated water lines and relocated water valves.
- Training
 - The Trades and Trails crews attended ESRI program training, a maintenance tracking software.
 - Trades Specialist Brian conducted utility trailer operations and safety training for White Tank and San Tan staff.
 - Trades Specialist Casey conducted skid steer training for staff at White Tank.



Usery Maintenance



San Tan Goldmine



Trails

- Maricopa Trail:
 - East Side Trails Team inspected and performed maintenance work on >11 miles of Segment 20, 6.4 miles of Segment 23, Andy Kunasek Trailhead
 - West Side Trails Team inspected and performed maintenance work on 3.3 miles of Segment 9, > 12 miles of Segment 11, Sun Valley Parkway Trailhead.
 - Began scouting routes to connect the White Tank Park to the planned Segment 76 (White Tank to Vulture Mountain Recreation Area (MRA) from the property line by Sun City Festival to Ford Canyon Trail inside the park.
- Park Trails/Track
 - ACE completed maintenance work on > 18 miles of Estrella Trails (Baseline, Horseshoe, Saddle, Quail, Rainbow Valley, Dysart Toothaker, Coldwater, Butterfield, Flycatcher, Gadsden Trails)
 - Completed maintenance work on Estrella Comp Track > 12 miles.
 - Estrella: Performed planning and layout of more than 6 Miles of the trail for the planned trail 2-9 (Dream Trail)

Development Projects:

- Estrella - The design for the water feature located in the pollinator garden has been completed. 60' X 2' creek bed with a pond-less recirculating reservoir.
- Lake Pleasant - Completed the Roadrunner Campground Sewer Rehab/Electric and plumbing upgrades.
- McDowell
 - Completed responses to 72 public comments on bike park design, posted on the Parks website.
 - Conceptual plans for the bike park were approved.
- Park HQ – staff is currently in consultation with AV experts for new audio-visual conference room equipment and portable equipment for public meetings in the parks.
- White Tank - Conceptual plans for White Tank competitive track and horse staging trailhead were approved.
- Adobe - Initiated work for the repair/replacement of Central Arizona Project pumps and valves.
- Buckeye Hills – Completed two borings for water with negative results and identified two additional locations for possible well sites.
- San Tan – Kick-off for the Goldmine Trailhead project with weekly project meetings, construction to start March 4.



Parks

Cave Creek Regional Park

- Events:
 - On January 1, the Anthem Rotary Club held a fundraiser for the *Ray of Hope Hike* for homeless kids in their community with approximately 150 in attendance.
 - The Elephant Mountain Run was held on February 3 and had approximately 400 participants.



○ Programs:

- On February 10, the Nature Center held an open house. Rattlesnakes Solutions, Wild at Heart, Desert Foothills Mountain Bike Association, Cave Creek Trail-rides, and the Town of Cave Creek Tourism Bureau had informational displays set up. Activities included balloon twisting (animal balloons) for the younger visitors and a kid's craft and activity table. Visitors learned more about Cave Creek Park, the Maricopa County Regional Parks, and the Cave Creek area.



○ Volunteers:

- On February 21, Cave Creek/Spur Cross/Adobe Parks held their annual Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon with approximately 40 volunteers attending, including Chair Crane.

Desert Outdoor Center

○ Center Programming:

- Ten schools visited in January, bringing 745 students and 203 adults who enjoyed 50 ranger-led programs.
- In February, the Rangers led programs for 1,263 students and 279 adults. Popular programs this month included *Desert Edibles* and *Investigating Owl Pellets*.

○ Park Programming:

- In January, the Interpretive Rangers offered 45 programs that 415 visitors attended. Popular programs included *Stargazing* events, *Night Hikes*, and the *Clay Mine Tour* at Cave Creek.
- Interpretive Ranger Steve offered a couple of well-received *Introduction to Photography* courses (Part I) throughout January. Part I of a program series is designed for the novice/beginner photographer and includes a 2-hour classroom session covering the very basics of how digital cameras work, how to use a camera, and photographic techniques, followed by a short supervised outdoor "practice session" that will take place in the area around the Nature Center.
- The Interpretive Rangers offered 60 programs for February with over 500 visitors. Our discovery stations continue to reach the most visitors to educate them on topics from cacti to snakes and other venomous creatures. *Desert 101* and *Full Moon Hikes* were all well attended.
- Ranger Shaun led a *Desert Ecosystems Hike* as a by-request outreach program for the Pebble Creek Hiking Club which was attended by 30 avid hikers who are eager to visit many more of our parks.



- Training:
 - The Interpretive Ranger team participated in an exploratory cruise with Scorpion Bay Marina. The rangers are planning to offer a quarterly ranger-narrated cruise around Lake Pleasant, highlighting the history, geography, and natural resources. Retired ranger, Terry Gerber, joined the group to share his wealth of knowledge. The rangers are currently researching and drafting an outline for this program. The first ranger cruise has been scheduled for March 30, 2024.
- Welcome:
 - Welcome to our newest Ranger, Jacqueline, who joined us on January 8 from Arizona State Parks and White Sands National Park. Jacque is a Certified Interpretive Guide Trainer with the National Association of Interpretation.



Estrella Mountain Regional Park

- Maintenance:
 - In January, the maintenance staff replaced two domestic in-ground water valves, a urinal, a toilet, and a water fountain. Work continues fine-tuning the irrigation and tree trimming in the new Pollinator Garden area. Grounds grooming and tree trimming continue in the Super Playground area in preparation for the Tres Rios Nature Festival.
 - The 4-acre natural seed hydroseed area south of the pollinator garden has become inundated with weeds. Desert Defenders, staff, hosts, and community service workers have been hand-weeding the area.
 - In February, the City of Goodyear replaced some local water valves, releasing rust and debris. The materials clogged P-traps, which needed disassembly and flushing.
- Special Use:
 - On January 20 and 21, Aravaipa Running had 461 runners. Some runners ran all night to complete 100 miles of running in the park.
 - On January 27, the Mountain Bike Association of Arizona (MBAA) Bike Race had 625 participants. Many compliments on the beautiful park and great trail conditions!
- Volunteers:
 - On February 29, the Volunteer Appreciation Lunch paid tribute to the volunteers, including the Desert Defenders, for their hard work and dedication to the park and the excellent customer service offered.
- Events:
 - After many years of being off the property, the Tres Rios Nature Festival returned to Estrella Park. The festival brought in approximately 3,000 people daily on February 24 and 25.
 - On February 24, the park also conducted a Nature Center Open House. Hundreds of visitors viewed the animals and natural displays, played games, made arts and crafts, and learned about all the parks the Maricopa County Park System offers.



Hassayampa River Preserve

- Maintenance:
 - A fireplace insert for the Visitor Center was received and installed.
 - Trades installed new lights in the maintenance shop and in the ramada.
 - Minor Visitor Center construction occurred during January. The project is on hold again waiting for displays and products from vendors.
 - Volunteers have steadily been working on the upkeep and repair of park boundary fences after the February storms.
- Natural Resources:
 - A second sighting of a Coati mundi by a visiting family occurred.



(Arizona State Parks.com)

- Projects:
 - Visitor Center remodel construction continues.

Lake Pleasant Regional Park

- Events:
 - The *Iceman Triathlon* was held on February 24 with 250 participants running, swimming, and riding.
- Operations:
 - Lake Pleasant Facilities Risk Management Appraisal Visit occurred on January 8.
 - The annual Lake Pleasant stakeholders meeting was held on January 11 with representatives from all applicable jurisdictions attending to discuss lake elevation and other concerns.
 - The Roadrunner campground water-side sites reopened January 8 and the land-side sites reopened January 22.
 - Beardsley Trail – The Lake’s camp hosts, park assistant, and maintenance crew worked hard to prepare the area for the Prickly Pedal Race.
 - Wild Burro Removals – The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) program to manage the burro herd population is currently collecting up to 400 head in the Lake Pleasant area. [BLM Wild-Horse-and-Burro Program](#)
 - On February 8, staff gave a presentation to 30 affiliates from BLM. The presentation painted the picture that although the wild burro symbolizes the Wild West and a huge visitor draw, an unmanaged herd presents many challenges for those same visitors.
 - On February 16, staff attended the second meeting with BLM and Maricopa County Parks to discuss the possibility of landing a historic plane on Lake Pleasant (final flight) and then dismantling it to be transported and rebuilt for the Pima Air and Space Museum.
- Maintenance:
 - Mitigation efforts are being made at Fireman's Cove and Castle Creek for visitor safety against erosion.
 - Staff and volunteers continue to work on signing and repairing string fencing at Castle Hot Springs Road and Cow Creek to better inform recreationists about park boundaries.



McDowell Mountain Regional Park

- Events:
 - Stoneman 14K - a small running race with approximately 50 runners.
 - The Mountain Bike Association of Arizona (MBAA) held its annual event for 753 riders of all ages.
 - ProCon Cycling held its annual event for road cyclists. They utilize the park's north end and host a fast-paced road criterium for 200 riders around the Asher Hills Loop Drive. Some highly competitive riders were on the USA Cycling Development Team this year.

San Tan Mountain Regional Park

- Events:
 - Arivaipa held its annual *San Tan Scramble Trail Running* event on January 6 with 516 participants.
- Programs:
 - On Sunday, February 11, over 200 park patrons attended an Open House event produced by the park. The guests enjoyed everything from learning all about what the park offers them to horseback riding and mountain bike safety classes to a wonderful display of what animals live in the park by Interpretive Ranger Nikki.



Spur Cross Ranch Conservation Area

- Events:
 - Civanna Wellness Resort held a Nike/Wellness hiking and running event on January 23. Approximately 60 participants took part in the rainy morning.
 - The *Elephant Mountain Trail Run* occurred in Cave Creek Regional Park and Spur Cross Ranch Conservation Area on February 3.



Prickly Pedal Event Photos

- Maintenance:
 - Service volunteers assisted in installing additional directional signage for the Jewel of the Creek trailhead and various park trails, including a "NO Parking" sign in the Emergency Helicopter Landing Zone by the parking area.
- Programs:
 - On January 6, the park supervisor gave an outreach presentation to the Saguaro Chapter of the Sierra Club.



- Volunteers:
 - Service volunteers installed T-posts and barbed wire across Cottonwood Wash on the eastern boundary of the conservation area to prevent trespassing.
 - Sun City Hiking Club volunteers joined the service volunteers on February 22 to reroute sections of the Dragonfly Trail onto higher ground to make for a drier passage during rain or flash flood events.
 - Service volunteers installed directional signs in the Boca Grande Wash section of the Elephant Mountain Trail to help guide park visitors in and out of the wash on February 29.
 - The Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon was held on February 21.
 - In January, a female Boy Scout Eagle Project was completed in the conservation area. The project consisted of constructing plank bridges for the trails' creek crossings. Ten 12-foot bridges and two reinforced 16-foot bridges were built and the scouts hand-carried them to the various crossings to be used as replacement bridges.



Usery Mountain Regional Park

- Events:
 - *Tonto Twist 50* was held on January 13 and 14. This 50-mile and 30-mile endurance equestrian ride began in Apache Junction and utilized Noso, Levee, Spillway, and Ruidoso trails.
 - *The Saguaro Showdown Ultra Run* was held January 19 through 22. The Ultra marathon running event started and finished at the Trailhead Staging area.
 - On February 10, the City of Mesa hosted its annual *Mesa Marathon* on Usery Pass Road. The marathon started near the park entrance; there were some traffic delays, but as in the past, the planning crew communicated well with the park.
 - The Usery Mountain Archers Club hosted their annual *Cactus Classic* on February 17 and 18.
- Volunteers:
 - A new Trail Ambassador completed training and began patrolling.
- Maintenance:
 - Staff completed the plumbing and insulation remodel in the maintenance building. Drywall installation is next.
 - Maricopa County Department of Transportation assisted by responding to two issues involving deteriorating asphalt on the main road.
- Natural Resources:
 - The Desert Defenders had a Master Naturalist meeting on Saturday, February 17, where they continued their work on removing invasive plant species.
- Programs:
 - On February 10, the park hosted an Open House for the public. The Open House had many activities, including snake feeding, an interpretive ranger visit, and a raffle. Staff interacted with the public, explaining the park, the amenities, annual passes, interpretive ranger programs, and volunteer opportunities.



White Tank Mountain Regional Park

- Programs:
 - On February 17, the park hosted an open house inviting the community to explore its amenities and opportunities. This event was free and aimed to highlight the park's many offerings. Representatives from the White Tank Conservancy and Friends Group, alongside various other community organizations, were present. With an impressive turnout of over 455 attendees, the open house was a resounding success, fostering engagement and appreciation for the park's natural beauty and recreational opportunities.



Maricopa County Parks Visitor Report
FY24, through February 2024

FY24	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June
FY23	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June
FY22	Jul 21	Aug 21	Sep 21	Oct 21	Nov 21	Dec 21	Jan 22	Feb 22	Mar 22	Apr 22	May 22	Jun 22
Cave Creek	1,266	1,621	3,312	9,690	12,328	12,736	13,249	14,271				
FY23	1,373	2,028	2,551	8,499	13,383	13,384	14,534	15,537	19,650	14,181	6,299	2,727
FY22	1,381	1,198	2,515	6,747	7,873	15,242	13,502	13,094	18,600	13,639	3,764	2,737
Estrella Park	1,864	2,003	5,174	6,395	10,104	9,024	12,047	11,453				
FY23	2,342	2,644	3,346	6,640	8,382	8,022	12,165	16,631	18,998	14,597	5,346	4,277
FY22	1,184	1,278	2,605	5,891	7,398	12,222	14,310	12,180	15,092	13,180	4,560	3,519
McDowell Mtn	1,268	1,766	3,851	14,137	13,901	15,071	15,379	15,388				
FY23	1,685	1,845	3,792	13,861	18,134	17,277	17,201	16,816	22,719	15,714	5,747	2,418
FY22	964	1,310	2,032	7,745	8,208	15,958	15,560	15,706	18,281	17,854	5,163	1,886
San Tan Park	3,680	4,209	8,094	13,823	22,089	23,452	28,344	26,251				
FY23	4,215	6,029	7,407	14,861	23,586	20,889	26,361	25,488	30,452	18,996	9,836	6,486
FY22	3,753	4,506	4,105	9,045	18,584	21,434	30,452	26,402	29,732	13,033	7,574	4,506
Spur Cross	130	118	488	1,575	6,699	4,511	6,053	7,258				
FY23	180	316	488	1,976	4,789	3,578	6,430	6,477	8,221	4,900	1,139	586
FY22	299	395	500	1,484	2,859	4,031	7,069	8,168	5,818	4,352	1,211	494
Usery Mtn Park	7,169	6,670	10,119	17,968	32,940	34,058	34,879	37,369				
FY23	6,500	6,544	7,043	16,879	26,760	24,845	29,889	29,695	44,722	29,472	13,158	8,231
FY22	3,926	2,811	5,039	14,212	16,450	38,086	29,834	30,249	34,433	22,465	9,316	5,949
White Tank	4,393	6,164	9,396	17,812	26,356	28,524	33,741	39,129				
FY23	7,264	8,845	9,345	20,459	27,457	26,239	38,467	39,100	50,150	29,236	13,361	8,585
FY22	4,923	4,068	5,201	17,768	20,775	42,163	36,298	35,679	40,771	24,697	11,293	6,807
Hassayampa	339	411	795	1,133	1,752	1,536	1,461	1,951				
FY23	463	546	671	1,202	1,500	912	1,535	1,610	2,573	2,366	1,398	840
FY22	286	333	423	1,105	2,669	1,790	1,771	2,096	2,850	2,286	1,338	554
Lake Pleasant	146,522	76,963	81,319	73,010	47,229	37,638	42,195	62,353				
FY23	146,746	87,426	95,022	78,576	56,935	48,903	55,380	64,152	92,599	146,533	142,552	153,447
FY22	88,853	62,651	64,323	50,169	38,347	45,239	35,415	44,353	90,764	152,545	147,980	137,694
DOC	50	80	97	796	496	856	452	847				
FY23	183	225	151	639	972	1,302	875	493	2,516	1,618	1,855	402
FY22	0	0	0	0	43	0	84	1,178	1,160	2,276	2,071	506
Agua Fria	6	6	0	0	7	97	130					
FY23		113	0	20	92	32	39	41	62	342	0	0
System Total	166,687	100,011	122,645	156,339	173,901	167,503	187,930	216,270	0	0	0	0
FY23	170,951	116,561	129,816	163,612	181,990	165,383	202,876	216,040	292,662	277,955	200,691	187,999
FY22	105,569	78,550	86,743	114,166	123,206	196,165	184,295	189,105	257,501	266,327	194,270	164,652