



Maricopa County Parks & Recreation Department

MEMORANDUM

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Morristown, AZ 85342-9887
Phone: 602-506-2930
www.maricopa.gov/parks

Date: May 13, 2021
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 **March and April 2021**.

Board of Supervisors Agenda Items:

Date/Status	Tracking Number	Summary
3/24/2021 Approved	C-06-21-534-X-00	Donations: Accept the monthly donation reports for December 2020 for the cash value of \$1,731.47 and for January 2021 for the cash value of \$1,702.74.
3/24/2021 Approved	C-30-21-030-X-00	Memorial Bench Donations: Accept the restricted monetary donations of \$1,000 for a memorial bench to be placed within San Tan Regional Park from Spencer Rosbrook, a \$1,000 donation from Rebecca Ginsburg for a memorial bench to be placed within Estrella Mountain Regional Park, a \$2,000 donation from Luis Valencia for memorial benches to be placed within Estrella Mountain Regional Park, and a \$1,000 donation from Larry Beverungen for a memorial bench to be placed within Usery Mountain Regional Park.
4/7/2021 Approved	C-30-21-031-X-00	Resolution Leave No Trace: Approve a Resolution to adopt the environmental goals, principles, and policies included in the Leave No Trace Program which includes innovative education, skills, and research to help people care for the outdoors in Maricopa County. (A copy of the resolution can be found on page 10)
4/7/2021 Approved	C-30-21-032-M-00	Salt River Project Land Use License for Maricopa Trail – Bush Highway Trailhead: Approve and execute the Land Use License between Maricopa County and SRP Agricultural Improvement and Power District for the Maricopa Trail Bush Highway Trailhead as part of the Maricopa County trail system. The purpose of this License is to use a certain section of the Licensor's property that includes a portion of Granite Reef Dam Road for the construction of a parking lot, trailhead area, trail, signage, and to clarify maintenance responsibilities of the parties. The effective date of this agreement will be April 15, 2021, through April 14, 2046.

Administration

Contract Administration:

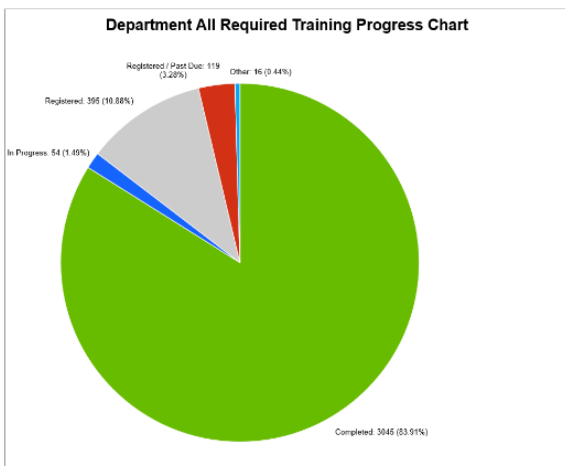
- The Letter of Expression of Interest (LOI) for the development, operation management, and maintenance of Lake Pleasant Commercial Property at State Route 74 was issued on December 3. Only one response was received. Our next step is to work directly with the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) for a review of their proposal and work through the multitude of steps to have this non-park land transferred into the existing Management Agreement with the BOR.
- The agreement with the existing horseback riding concessionaire located within Estrella Mountain Regional Park, Corral West, terminates on June 30, 2021. They have requested a one-year extension to the Agreement. Staff needs to obtain permission from the BLM to grant this extension.

Human Resources

- **Welcome/Promotions/Transfers:**
 - Alan Rasmussen, Contact Station Assistant, Lake Pleasant, 4/2/2021
 - Nicole Gutierrez, Contact Station Assistant, Lake Pleasant, 4/5/2021
 - Anne Fisher, Contact Station Assistant, Lake Pleasant, 4/7/2021
 - David Banchich, Interpretive Ranger, McDowell, 4/19/2021
 - Andrew Torres, Park Maintenance Worker, San Tan, 4/20/2021
 - Sharon Nylen promoted from Contact Station Assistant to Procurement Specialist effective 3/22/2021
 - Tony Blanco, Park Maintenance Worker transfer from Desert Outdoor Center to Estrella effective 3/30/2021
 - David Taylor promoted from Park Maintenance Worker to Park Maintenance Supervisor effective 4/19/2021
- **Farewells**
 - Gary Morical, Park Maintenance Worker, Estrella 4/2/2021
 - Stephen Branham, Contact Station Assistant, Lake Pleasant, 5/9/2021
 - David Jordan, Lake Pleasant Park Supervisor, 5/13/2021
 - Brad Reed, Park Project Manager, 5/14/2021
- **Vacancies**
 - Park Project Manager - position posted 4/14/2021, interviews held 4/29/2021, offer extended
 - Lake Pleasant Park Supervisor - position posted 4/23/2021, interviews held 5/10/2021
 - Contact Station Assistants (4), Lake Pleasant – reposted 4/28/2021
 - Park Maintenance Worker, Lake Pleasant – position posted, interviews held 5/4/2021
 - Contact Station Assistant (Temp), Cave Creek – reposted, interviews held 4/30/2021
 - Park Maintenance Worker, White Tank – On hold
 - Trails Supervisor – On hold
 - Trails Specialist – On hold
 - Parks Education Supervisor, DOC – On hold
 - Park Maintenance Worker (2), DOC – On hold
 - Interpretive Ranger (2), DOC – On hold

Training Hours (Staff and Core Volunteers)

TheHUB Training											
Safety	July	August	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr**	Total YTD
FY21	542.97	144.78	113.51	144.04	103.66	65.04	57.29	60.34	74.77	136.76	1,443.16
FY20	165.95	225.92	73.05	285.34	177.69	191.15	136.84	77.49	63.54	3.01	1,399.98
** Safety Tailgate training assigned monthly via TheHUB effective April 2021											
Other*	July	August	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Total YTD
FY21	21.28	18.29	36.96	84.37	14.7	17.75	43.52	13.46	8.93	30.34	289.60
FY20	37.50	92.18	48.75	54.71	17.07	19.53	103.67	64.80	25.51	3.10	466.86
* Other (new employee orientation, policy review, diversity, job skills, professional development, personal development)											



Volunteer Hours (FY21 through April 2021):

TOTAL Volunteer Hours, by month														YTD Total	Year End Total
	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June			
FY21 - All Hours	2,800	2,738	2,699	8,598	11,094	11,790	13,369	12,121	13,745	7,826	0	0	86,780	86,780	
FY20 - All Hours	1,900	1,955	3,884	7,020	10,497	12,463	12,711	12,213	13,177	7,229	3,933	2,768	83,049	89,750	
FY19 - All Hours	2,754	2,824	2,968	4,373	9,230	10,390	10,847	13,141	12,575	7,832	0	0	76,935	76,935	
FY18 - All Hours	3,506	4,936	4,915	6,682	11,841	12,353	13,804	12,148	13,250	8,708	3,813	3,422	83,435	99,378	

Financial Impact of Volunteers, by Month														YTD Total	Year End Total
	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June			
FY21 Financial Impact	\$71,204	\$69,627	\$68,636	\$218,647	\$282,120	\$299,820	\$339,974	\$308,237	\$349,535	\$199,015	\$0	\$0	\$2,206,815	\$2,206,815	
FY20 Financial Impact	\$48,329	\$49,703	\$98,758	\$178,512	\$266,947	\$316,943	\$323,231	\$310,569	\$335,088	\$183,844	\$100,018	\$70,398	\$2,111,924	\$2,282,340	
FY19 Financial Impact	\$67,996	\$69,725	\$73,280	\$107,969	\$227,889	\$256,529	\$267,812	\$324,451	\$310,483	\$193,381	\$0	\$0	\$1,899,515	\$1,899,515	
FY18 Financial Impact	\$84,635	\$119,155	\$118,648	\$161,303	\$285,842	\$298,201	\$333,229	\$293,253	\$319,855	\$210,211	\$92,046	\$82,607	\$2,224,332	\$2,398,985	

Special Days of Service event listings:	Date	Attendance	Hours
Desert Defenders - Usery	3/2/2021	5	15
Desert Defenders - Estrella	3/4/2021	6	24
Lake - Cub Scout - Clean-Up	3/7/2021	17	34
HRP - Volunteer 13K	3/10/2021	3	6
Desert Defenders - Spur Cross	3/10/2021	12	48
Desert Defenders - White Tank	3/11/2021	20	80
Lake - Eagle Scout - Discovery Trail	3/20/2021	15	88
McDowell - Adopt-a-Trail	3/22/2021	9	25
Desert Defenders - Cave Creek	3/26/2021	7	30
Desert Defenders - Cave Creek	3/28/2021	13	39
Desert Defenders - Spur Cross	3/30/2021	7	25
Desert Defenders - White Tank	3/31/2021	15	58
Desert Defenders - Cave Creek	4/1/2021	24	60
Cave Creek - Trail Maintenance	4/3/2021	2	6
Spur Cross - Trail Maintenance	4/3/2021	1	3
White Tank - Clean-Up	4/5/2021	20	41
Lake - Clean-Up	4/5/2021	14	56
Cave Creek - Native Seed Garden	4/9/2021	7	20
White Tank - Clean-Up	4/22/2021	3	6
Cave Creek - Trail Maintenance	4/22/2021	1	4
Maricopa Trail - Trail Maintenance	4/22/2021	6	26
Usery - Lippert - Clean-Up	4/24/2021	8	32
White Tank - High School - Clean-Up	4/27/2021	12	18

Planning and Development Division

Project Management

- This Spring has been busy for the Department Project Manager. Recent large projects that have been completed include the San Tan Goldmine Interim Trailhead project and the North Lake Pleasant entry shade structure.
- The Parks Project Manager is currently working at the Desert Outdoor Center on the replacement of the ET Bed for the facility septic disposal system. The project includes replacing the liner, waste piping, and installing new sand in the bed. The project is expected to be completed in the next few weeks. Other notable projects include septic tank replacements at both Cave Creek and Usery RV dump stations. Likely the heaviest used facilities in the parks, these RV dump station renovations add resiliency to the system and improve the customer experience.
- The Project Manager is working on sidewalk replacement at the Hassayampa River Preserve. Old concrete walks are being removed and replaced behind the Visitor Center. The new walkways will provide barrier-free access to the east side of the building and staff parking area.

Trades Crew

- The Trades Crew has been assisting with the White Tank Mountain Regional Park wildlife pond reconstruction. Once the old liner is removed and the area cleaned up, contractors will install a new concrete shell to create a long-term solution for the pond. Once the shell is complete, staff and volunteers will work on the habitat, landscaping, and fencing.
- Trades Crew is repairing the septic system at Restroom 10 at White Tank Mountain Regional Park. Roots have grown into the sewer line causing the restroom to malfunction.
- Trades Crew replaced the compressor to the hydro tank at the well at Adobe Mountain Regional Park. The compressor balances the air-water tank that delivers well water to the Victory Lane Sports complex at the park.
- The Department Electricians continue with the LED lighting conversion in the parks and are currently upgrading the lighting at the Lake Pleasant Regional Park maintenance yard building.

Trails Crew

- The Trails Crew of one has finished trail maintenance at Estrella Mountain Regional Park's Toothaker Trail, San Tan Mountain Regional Park's Goldmine connector trail, and the White Tank Mountain Regional Park's Black Rock Trail connector.
- Trails staff is currently working at Usery Mountain Regional Park evaluating a potential trail route paralleling Usery Pass Rd from North to South at the entry road.

Maricopa Trail, Sun Circle, and Trailhead Facilities:

- Agreement preparation/negotiations:
 - City of Phoenix – Segment 7 in review by Maricopa County Attorney's Office (MCAO) and Real Estate Dept.
 - ADOT – Received the permit for SR85 crossing Segment 33 ramp in February 2021.
 - CAP – License application for Segment 76 submitted 12/15/2020.
 - AZ Game & Fish Dept – Segment 33 draft license in review by MCAO and Real Estate.
 - WAPA (Western Area Power Administration) license applications (four) for Segment 76 submitted 10/28/20.
 - MCDOT – Permit application for Segment 1 sign placement submitted March 2021.
 - MCFCD (Flood Control District) – Permits submitted for Segments 27 and 35.
 - SRP – License for Bush Highway Trailhead approved April 2021
- Construction
 - Segment 33 - Constructed concrete ramp for SR85 crossing March 2021.
 - Segment 1 – Signs placed from Broadway Road to Bethany Home Road April 2021.
 - Segment 27 – Bush Highway Trailhead – Pre-Construction meeting 5/12/2021.
 - Segment 30 – New Goldmine Trailhead parking completed April 2021.
- Maintenance
 - Segment 18 – Volunteers completed repairs to small segment April 2021
 - Segment 22 – Sears Fire burned the north eight miles of the trail. American Conservation Experience (ACE) Youth Corps crew completed the second eight-day hitch of erosion mitigation 3/17/21.
 - Groomed tread and brushed the following segments this period: 8 and 11
 - Repaired drains at Estrella Park on the Butterfield, Gadsen, and Toothaker Trails – March and April 2021
- Trailheads
 - Segment 27 – Bush Highway – Received 100% plans from MCDOT 2/8/21. Construction scheduled for May 2021 by MCDOT.
 - San Tan Goldmine – New parking area completed April 2021.
- Route Determination
 - Segment 77 Vulture Mountain to Lake Pleasant – Submitted route to BLM 1/25/21. Refined new trail routes in January and April. Site visits completed April 2021.
 - Segment 76 White Tank to Vulture Mountain - Submitted route to BLM 1/25/21. Refined route April 2021.

Natural Resources

- The Department Natural Resource Specialist was honored by the Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management with the **Ironwood Award** for excellence in community forestry efforts. This award is presented to an exemplary government official or employee, who through extraordinary efforts, has significantly and positively contributed to and enhanced urban forest management at a community or state level.
- Department staff continues to place the finishing touches on the native seed garden installation at Cave Creek Regional Park. A small garden shed for tool and supply storage was added. Staff and volunteers are adding additional irrigation to grow additional plants. This native garden will raise plant species of conservation value and the seed will then be utilized in the north park areas to help restore burned or degraded areas. Plants of conservation value are those species that are native, but rare in the area, and require extra effort and care to re-establish.
- The Natural Resource Specialist is busy hosting native seed collection events at both Cave Creek Regional Park as well as Spur Cross Ranch Conservation Area. These events train volunteers to identify and collect native seeds from park species to be planted in disturbed, burned, or areas impacted by invasive species when conditions are right.

Parks Operations Report

Park Visitor Attendance (through April 2021):

- Report found on page 12

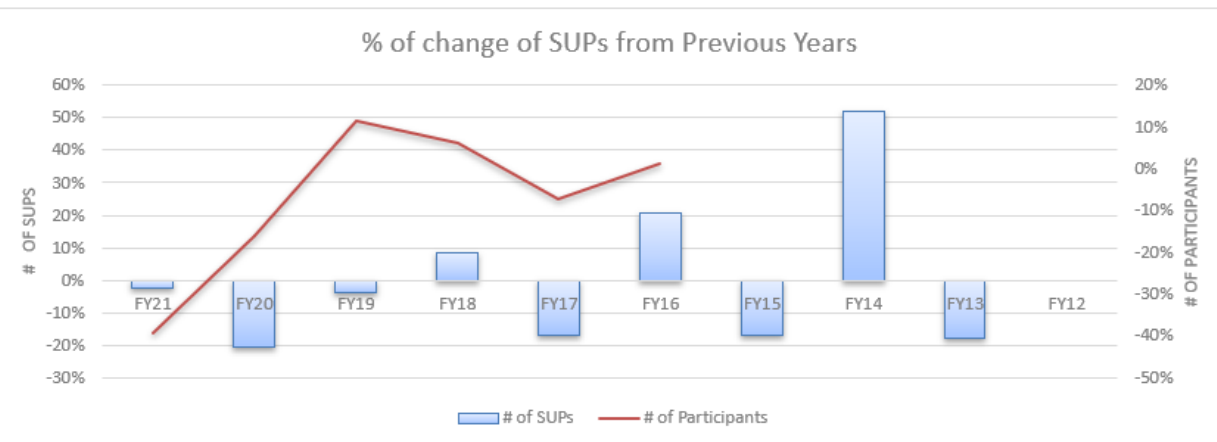
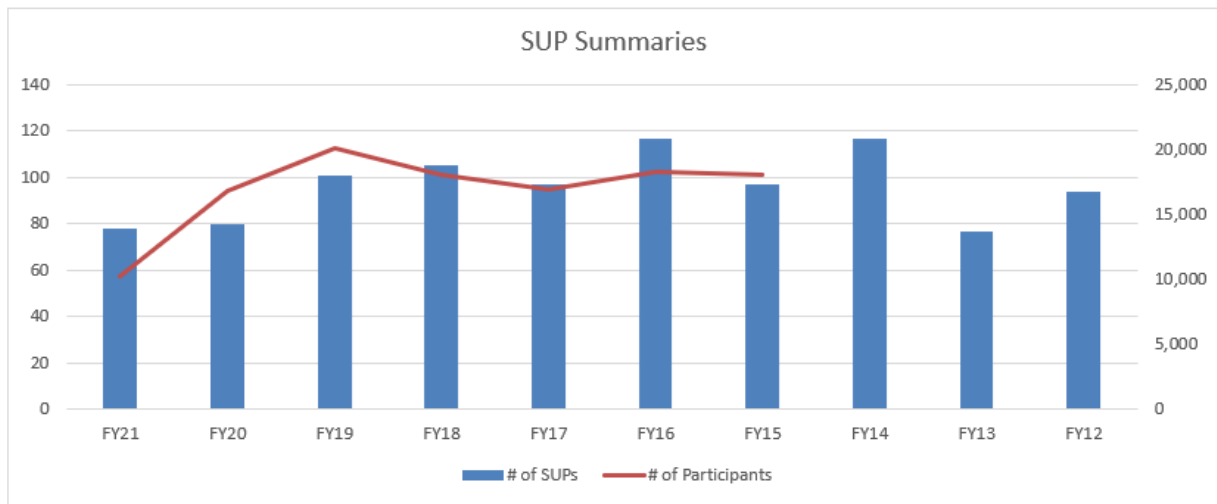
Parks Special Use Permits (FY21 YTD):

	FY21	FY20	FY19	FY18	FY17	FY16	FY15	FY14	FY13	FY12
# of SUPs	78	80	101	105	97	117	97	117	77	94
# of Participants	10,205	16,852	20,099	18,018	16,960	18,297	18,094			

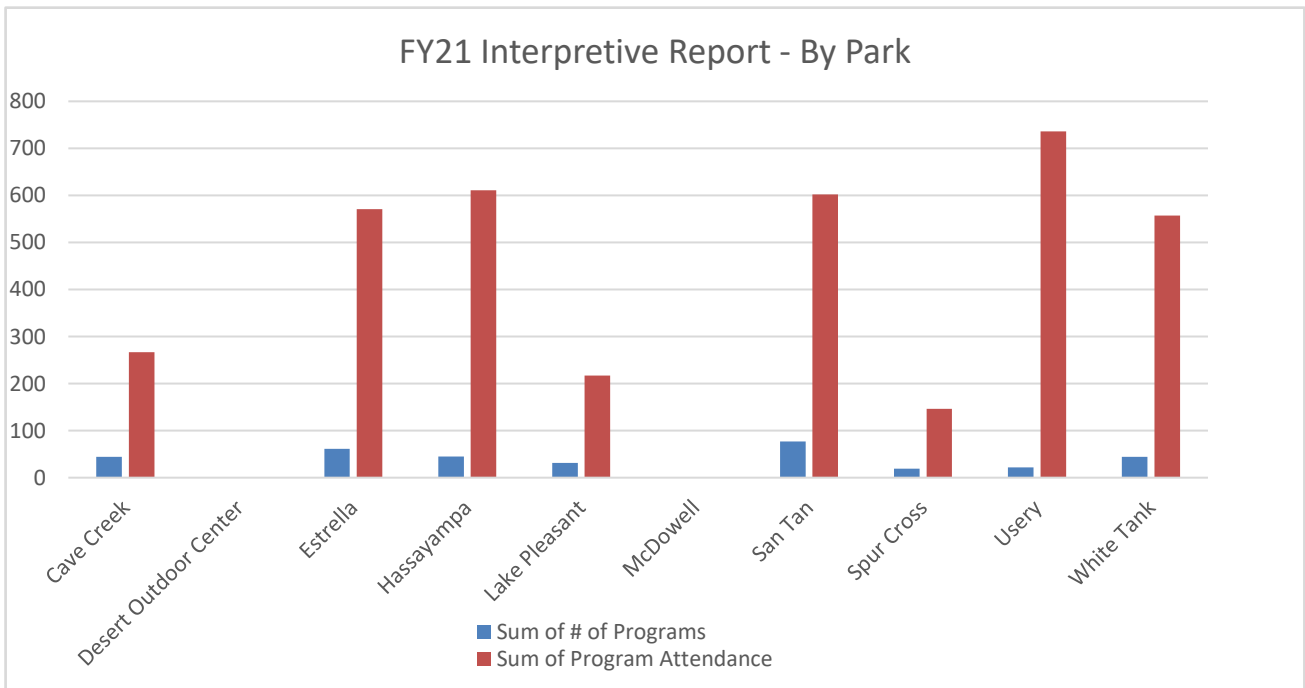
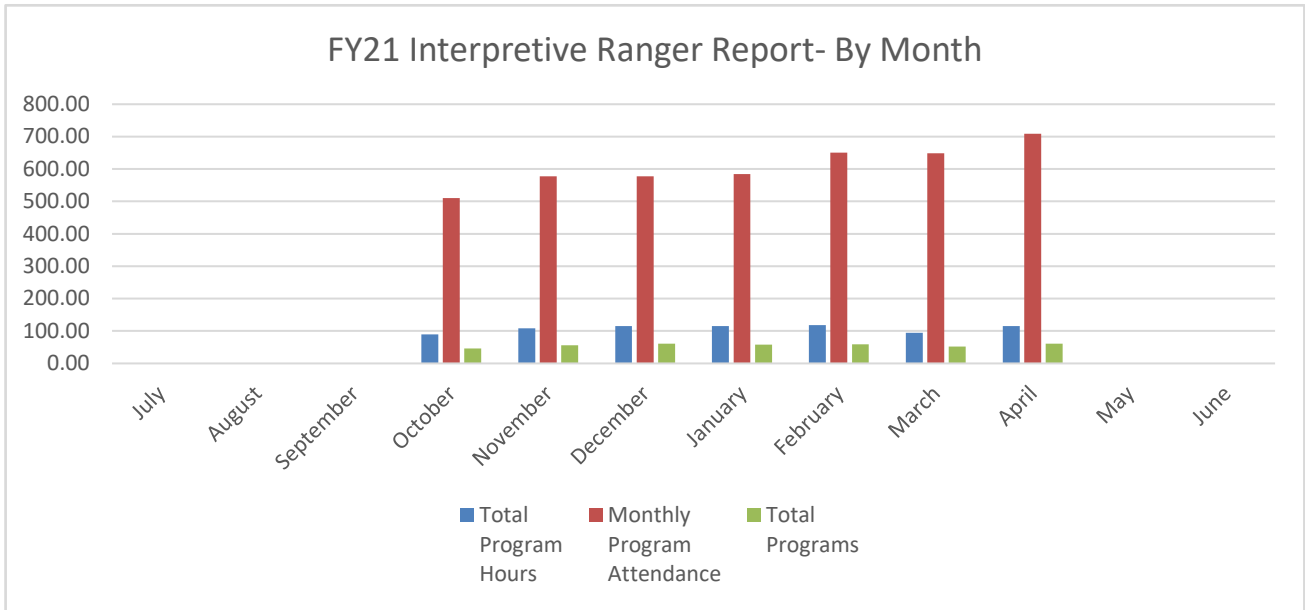
COVID

% of change from Previous Year

	FY21	FY20	FY19	FY18	FY17	FY16	FY15	FY14	FY13	FY12
# of SUPs	-3%	-21%	-4%	8%	-17%	21%	-17%	52%	-18%	
# of Participants	-39%	-16%	12%	6%	-7%	1%				



Interpretive Ranger Programs (FY21 through April 2021):



Cave Creek Regional Park

- Staff interviewed volunteers for two summer host positions in April.
- The mine closure project is still underway. By the end of April, staff will have completed an inventory report for management.
- Desert View Bible Church brought out six volunteers and completed basic maintenance work on the Slate Trail.
- A new community service volunteer will start on May 4th; he will be covering some shifts in the entry station.
- The dump station renovations have started with expected completion in mid-May.
- A volunteer has been reinforcing the gabion fencing surrounding the tortoise enclosure and helping to clear the brush around the Nature Center and parking lot.
- A volunteer group from the Rotary Club donated and planted 15 native mesquite trees.
- On Public Lands Day, a couple of volunteers assisted the Interpretive Ranger with minor trail work.

Estrella Mountain Regional Park

- Staff performed general park clean-up; several more trash barrels were painted, and some facilities received wood repair with new paint.
- Tres Rios Golf Course clean-up: removed the old fence and groomed the area.
- Interpretive Ranger programs are filling to the maximum occupancy.
- Staff and hosts worked on cleaning projects and tree trimming in preparation for the busy Easter weekend.
- April had a strong attendance leading off with the well-attended Easter weekend picnics. Easter weekend had a little lower attendance than many years due to COVID but still had picnics throughout the ramadas and many scattered families in the turf area.

Hassayampa River Preserve

- Most interpretive programs continue to reach attendance capacity.
- Spring bird migration brought new species through the Preserve. Volunteers hosted a drop-in discovery table highlighting fascinating facts about bird feathers.
- Several County employees assisted the Preserve in a Volunteer 13K event, highlighted in a Maricopa County video.
- Park staff and volunteers continued regular trail and fence maintenance during this busy season.
- The Preserve held their 2nd annual nature poetry contest for the public, receiving several entries. Park staff and the Friends of Hassayampa board members voted on the winners. The winners will receive prizes funded by Friends of Hassayampa. All entrants will have their poems displayed along the trails for April to celebrate National Poetry Month, Earth Day, and Arbor Day.
- Our long-time park host, Gayle Settles, finished his final season at the Preserve and headed back home to Colorado. Our remaining park host couple will be finishing up soon and heading north to cooler weather.
- In full bloom, the interpretive garden in front of the Visitor Center is a delight to visitors since the desert overall has had an underwhelming wildflower season.
- The warmer weather has also brought more reptiles out, with sightings of rattlesnakes and other snakes becoming more common.
- Arizona Game and Fish Department researchers have been surveying Arizona toads. Matt Haberkorn, with the Phoenix College Bioscience Department, finished his several-year study on bats at the Preserve and presented the department with his report. His findings indicate that at least 17 different bat species use the Preserve, making it a vibrant bat habitat.

Lake Pleasant Regional Park

- The Dirt Spillway Primitive Camp continues to remain busy with almost a 90% occupancy rate.
- Park staff continue to work with Maricopa County Department of Transportation (MCDOT) and Maricopa County Sheriff's Office (MCSO) in preparations for the upcoming summer season and the potential for park closures related to the increased attendance, high water levels, and limited shoreline availability.
- The maintenance team worked diligently to prepare South Park Primitive Camp area in time for Easter weekend. Ten additional designated campsites will be available with the new addition.
- Maintenance staff successfully participated in training sessions for Skid Steers and Tractors.
- A Cub Scout clean-up crew came out on March 7th to perform clean-up efforts around the park.
- During March, Bald eagles continued to remain in the various breeding areas. A few attempts have been unsuccessful to this point. Illegal access (e.g., dirt bikes, razors, and other OHV's) into one of the breeding areas continues to cause disturbance problems for the nesting eagles. Due to no successful breeding activity this season, the Bald Eagle closure within the Agua Fria arm of Lake Pleasant was lifted early on April 23rd.

- The *Crown King Scramble* special event took place on Saturday, March 27, with our partners at Aravaipa Running and was a huge success.
- April 30th marked the last day of the season for boaters to access the Agua Fria Conservation Area boat launch as water levels are beginning to decline.
- Maintenance staff completed site preparation for ten additional primitive campsites within the new "South Park Primitive Camp," which became available for reservations on April 2nd.
- The park successfully hosted the *Dam Good Run* event, which saw roughly 500 participants.

McDowell Mountain Regional Park

- With an unexpected host vacancy, a new host couple was hired quickly and jumped right into their duties during the busiest time of camping season.
- Maintenance was completed on the north leg of the Pemberton Trail between Tonto Tank and Granite Tank.
- Staff assisted the Trades Crew with the swap of a new pump motor for the park water system.
- Two Special Use Permit events occurred in March: The *Cactus Cup Bike Race* and *Snakebite Trail Run*. *Cactus Cup* hosted 485 participants over a 3-day bike race on the competitive track. It was a well-run race with participants following COVID guidelines and minimal injuries on the courses. *Snakebite* is the third race of the McDowell Mountain Cup Series and had 37 participants in this one-day event.
- New Interpretive Ranger, David Banchich, joined the McDowell team on April 17. He moved from Albuquerque, NM, and has settled into his new home quickly. He will spend the next couple of months training with the other park rangers, spending time learning McDowell Park, creating programs, and building relationships with our local communities.
- Most of the hosts left the park during April, leaving the maintenance crew to clean and prep an abnormally busy campground that remained 80% full throughout April.
- A fire fuel reduction project occurred April 27-30 on the northeast border of the park that we share with the Rio Verde community. To reduce the risk to this neighboring community, we received a grant to remove excessive fire fuels, including invasive grasses and dead brush, creating a 75' wide buffer. In addition, to preserve a more natural desert environment, they left native trees, cactus, and plants untouched.

San Tan Mountain Regional Park

- San Tan sold 592 annual passes during March.
- MCDOT graded the new Goldmine parking lot area, and the Trades Crew began spreading and compacting gravel.
- San Tan sold 489 annual passes in April.
- Five members of the *San Tan Trail Runners*, a long-time volunteer group with the park, performed trail work with the Ranger along several areas on Dynamite Trail.
- Aravaipa *Sinister Night Rides and Night Runs* held their annual race event this month with a total of 408 participants and volunteers over two nights.

Spur Cross Ranch Conservation Area

- Staff removed loose rock and dug out drains on Spur Cross Trail (Chain breaker and Cottonwood Wash Crossing).
- Desert Defenders held an Invasive Weed pull in March, removing Sahara mustard along Towhee Trail and fountain grass in an unnamed wash off the Metate Trail.
- Work continued with the Town of Cave Creek to delineate parking spaces and enlarge the parking lot area. The Town Planner will coordinate grading and design the layout; Parks ordered the parking block materials. Completion is expected to be at the end of May.
- On April 30, the entry station will be closed for the season.
- Staff installed a memorial bench on the Fairy Duster Trail.
- The Spur Cross Ranger and Cave Creek Ranger installed fencing and signs for closed mines at Cave Creek Regional Park.
- The Arizona Public Lands Day and Earth Day Volunteer Events trimmed vegetation and raked loose rock on the Fairy Duster Trail.

Usery Mountain Regional Park

- The campground has continued to remain at full capacity in March with Overflow Camping needed every weekend and several days throughout the week.
- Two memorial benches were purchased in March to be placed on Cats Peak Trail and Lost Sheep Trail.
- Usery Park received 20 new signs via MCDOT to replace old/worn signs at the Archery Range. Along with Archery Range hosts, maintenance staff have begun to install these and should complete them in April.
- Maintenance staff repaired a leak discovered on our main water line; this affected several restrooms (closures), and two host sites in terms of no water access. Fortunately, maintenance staff caught this early and repairs were fairly simple.
- Six target butts have been taken out of circulation at the Archery Range (Burlap Course) due to location and safety concerns. The maintenance staff has begun to remove old steps and make repairs as needed to these areas of the course.
- Staff installed a memorial bench near the outdoor fitness equipment on Blevins Trail in April.
- Several Park Hosts made their departure in April as we continued to remain very busy; staff and remaining hosts stepped up to provide additional help as needed.
- The campground continued to remain nearly full in April, with overflow needed during several weekends.
- The Lippert Company Volunteer Service Project took place on Saturday, April 24; Ranger B and volunteers closed off several cut-through trails along our popular Wind Cave Trail.
- Usery Park received its first Adopt-A-Trail group; Aqua Tots adopted Merkle Trail and their first service event occurred, May 2, 2021.
- Usery Park volunteers assisted with removing graffiti from a few trail signs and continued assisting staff with the closure of several spider trails.
- Fence cuts along numerous areas of the park boundary were repaired.
- Staff quickly repaired two water leaks within our campground which only affected campsites for a short period.

White Tank Mountain Regional Park

- White Tank sadly lost two of its animal ambassadors this month. Brady the Gila Monster and Shakespeare the Diamondback Rattlesnake were both over 20 years old! We are thankful for their many years of service.
- Staff completed removing all the large boulders and overgrown vegetation from the wildlife pond area in preparation for reconstruction in the next few months.
- The Parks' Trail Crew built a small connector trail from the new Black Rock Parking Lot to Black Rock Trail.
- Aravaipa Running hosted the *Mesquite Canyon Trail Runs* on March 6th, bringing in record numbers with 609 runners.
- The "Scavenger Hunt" interpretive program designed for children was a huge hit this month. This fun program focused on wildlife identification and fun facts.
- Ranger Justin worked with Friends of White Tank and volunteer McCulley on new plant identification signage around the Nature Center and Black Rock short loop. He is also developing a handout brochure for Black Rock to serve as a self-guided hike in correlation with the new ID signage.
- On April 21st, a vehicle hit the Park Entry Station sometime in the early morning hours. The bollards in front of the Entry Station caused the car to go vertical and end propped up on the roof. Thankfully no staff was in the building at the time and the driver did not sustain life-threatening injuries. The Entry Station is structurally sound and safe for staff to work inside but will need to be repaired by a contractor as the roof sustained damage.
- The White Tank campgrounds have remained almost full each weekend throughout April, with camping reservations much higher than previous Aprils.
- A pipe-rail fence was installed along the backside of the new Black Rock Parking Lot and extended along the trail's mountainside to discourage park visitors from going off-trail.
- The Trails Crew finished the barrier-free connector trail from the parking lot to the trail and Park Maintenance landscaped the lot medians.
- Interpretive park programs have been filling up nicely and Ranger Justin continues to get positive feedback regarding the more personal feel to programs due to the smaller program size.
- Ranger Justin has been working on creating new Wildlife Exhibits in the display tanks. The non-live exhibits include a hummingbird nest, a dried snake, a lizard, a Sonoran Desert toad, a snake shed, a rattle, and a skull.

Maricopa County Board of Supervisors

RESOLUTION

Leave No Trace

BE IT RESOLVED by the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors as follows:

WHEREAS, Maricopa County's regional park system has grown to become one of the largest park systems in the nation, with more than 120,000 acres of parkland and 596 miles of trails, and

WHEREAS, the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors (Board) adopted the revised Bylaws of the Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission (Commission) on November 14, 2012, per A.R.S. 11-934 & 11-935, and

WHEREAS, according to its Bylaws, the Commission shall act in an advisory role to the Board and recommend broad policies and long-range programs for the acquisition, planning, development, maintenance, and operation of the County parks, and

WHEREAS, the Commission and the Board recognize the quality of life, natural resource, and economic benefits provided by a strong and vibrant County system of regional parks, trails and programs and further recognize the desirability and responsibility of providing quality natural resources for current and future County residents, and

WHEREAS, the Commission and the Board recognize the importance, desirability, and responsibility of being good stewards of park lands as well as educating the public about caring for all natural resources in the region, and

WHEREAS, the Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department has established a partnership with the national nonprofit organization Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics, created in 1994 between the U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, National Outdoor Leadership School, and Outdoor Recreation Summit, and

WHEREAS, the mission of the Leave No Trace organization is to provide innovative education, skills, and research to help people care for the outdoors, and

WHEREAS, Leave No Trace works with the public, tourism industry and land managers at the city, county, state, and federal level to educate, train, and provide information on the most effective and least resource-intensive solutions to land protection.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT Resolved that:

1. The Maricopa County Board of Supervisors, based on advice from the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission, directs the Parks and Recreation Department to adopt the environmental goals, principles, and policies included in the Leave No Trace Program in park planning, development, operations and public education, where practicable.
2. The Parks and Recreation Department shall cooperate and collaborate with other interested parties for the implementation of the Leave No Trace Program.

ADOPTED by the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors, Maricopa County, Arizona, this ____ day of _____ 2021.



Jack Sellers, Chairman
Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:

Clerk of the Board

