



# Maricopa County Parks & Recreation Department

## MEMORANDUM

41835 N Castle Hot Springs Rd  
Morristown, AZ 85342-9887  
Main: 602-506-2930  
HQ: 602-506-9500  
[www.maricopa.gov/parks](http://www.maricopa.gov/parks)

**Date:** May 12, 2022  
**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 2022**.

### Federal Legislative Items:

U.S. Senators Shelley Moore Capito (R-W.Va.), Martin Heinrich (D-N.M.), Roy Blunt (R-Mo.), and Tom Carper (D-Del.) are sponsoring the bipartisan Recovering America's Wildlife Act across. On April 7, 2022, the landmark conservation legislation was voted out of the U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works (EPW) with bipartisan support. The legislation now heads to the Senate Floor for consideration. The House legislation advanced out of the House Natural Resources Committee in January.

The legislation invests in proactive, on-the-ground conservation work led by states, territories, and Tribal nations to support the long-term health of fish and wildlife and their habitat all across America. These locally-driven, science-based strategies would restore populations of species with the greatest conservation need. Since its introduction in July 2021, the Recovering America's Wildlife Act has gained significant momentum with 32 bipartisan sponsors and cosponsors, and is backed by over 60 Tribes and 1,500 organizations representing state fish and wildlife agencies, sportsmen and women, conservation groups, and industry associations and businesses.

<https://www.epw.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/press-releases-republican?ID=F0C21AB1-0480-44A7-BE26-E30E5FC19D9C>

### State Legislation Follow-up:

HOUSE BILL 2130: An Act Amending Section 33-1551, Arizona Revised Statutes; Relating to Liabilities and Duties on Property Used for Education and Recreation

### Roll Calls:

2022-05-09 - *Senate* - Senate - Third Reading (Y: 16 N: 11 NV: 3 Abs: 0) [PASS]  
2022-03-07 - *Senate* - Senate Rules Committee Action (PFC) (Y: 0 N: 0 NV: 0 Abs: 0) [PASS]  
2022-03-03 - *Senate* - Senate Judiciary Committee Action (DP) (Y: 5 N: 3 NV: 0 Abs: 0) [PASS]  
2022-02-17 - *House* - House - Third Reading (Y: 31 N: 28 NV: 1 Abs: 0) [PASS]  
2022-02-17 - *House* - House - Committee of the Whole (DPA) (Y: 0 N: 0 NV: 0 Abs: 0) [PASS]  
2022-02-07 - *House* - House Rules Committee Action (C&P) (Y: 5 N: 3 NV: 0 Abs: 0) [PASS]  
2022-01-31 - *House* - House Land, Agriculture & Rural Affairs Committee Action (DP) (Y: 6 N: 5 NV: 0 Abs: 0) [PASS]

### Board of Supervisors Agenda Items:

Date/ Status	Tracking Number	Summary
3/6/2022 Approved	C-06-22-033-X-00	<b>Donations:</b> Accept the restricted monetary donation of \$10,012.34 for Iron Rangers to be placed within McDowell Mountain Regional Park from Friends of McDowell Park, a \$1,050 donation for a memorial bench to be placed within McDowell Mountain Regional Park from Don & Lisa Swearingen, a \$1,050 donation for a memorial bench to be placed within Estrella Mountain Regional Park from Natalie Rivera, and a \$1,050 donation for a memorial bench to be placed within Uesry Mountain Regional Park from Kelli Grant.

3/6/2022 Approved	C-73-22-074-X-00	<b>Parks and Recreation Trails JOC:</b> Approve and award a Job Order Contract with American Conservation Experience (ACE), and Northwest Woodland Services, Inc. in a not-to-exceed amount of \$3,000,000.00 per Contract. Each contract will have a term of 3 years with (2), 1-year options for renewal. The purpose of the contract is to provide Job Order Construction services for the Parks and Recreation Department for trail construction and management at various County locations.
3/23/2022 Approved	C-30-22-035-X-00	<b>IGA with the City of Phoenix for the Maricopa Trail and Sun Circle Trail:</b> Approve and execute the Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) between the City of Phoenix (COP) and Maricopa County (County) for a portion of the Maricopa Trail and the Sun Circle Trail (Trail) within COP's jurisdiction. This agreement also provides for the County's Director of Parks and Recreation or designee to administer the agreement.
3/23/2022 Approved	C-30-17-013-M-01	<b>Amendment to Lease Management Agreement with The Nature Conservancy:</b> Approve and execute Amendment one to the Lease Agreement with The Nature Conservancy to provide notice that the term of the Cooperative Agreement will be extended and revised to be coterminous with the Lease pursuant to Amendment One to the Cooperation Agreement and to update the Notice provisions of the Lease.
3/23/2022 Approved	C-06-22-425-X-00	<b>Amendment to Cooperative Management Agreement with the Nature Conservancy:</b> Approve and execute Amendment one to the Cooperative Agreement with The Nature Conservancy to extend and revise the term of the Cooperative Agreement and to update the Notice provisions. The Cooperative Agreement shall now terminate on April 30, 2022, and, unless terminated earlier or either Party gives prior notice, will by its terms be extended by an automatic renewal of one additional period of ten years.
4/6/2022 Approved	C-06-22-612-X-00	<b>Donations:</b> Accept the monthly donation report for February 2022 for the cash value of \$2,224.79.
4/20/2022 Approved	C-06-22-629-X-00	<b>Donations:</b> Accept the monthly donation report for March 2022 for the cash value of \$2,617.26.

**Administration**

**Budget Forecast (FY22 final):**

Department		Fund		Appropriation Unit		Expenditures			Revenue		
Code	Name	Code	Name	Code	Name	Appropriation	Detail Budget	Variance	Appropriation	Detail Budget	Variance
D300	Parks and Recreation	100	General	OPER	Operating	\$ 861,313	\$ 861,313	\$ -			
D300	Parks and Recreation	225	Spur Cross Ranch Conservation	NRNP	Non Recurring Non Project	\$ 100,000		\$ 100,000			
D300	Parks and Recreation	225	Spur Cross Ranch Conservation	OPER	Operating	\$ 321,657	\$ 283,358	\$ 38,299	\$ 341,141	\$ 341,089	\$ 52
D300	Parks and Recreation	230	Parks and Recreation Grants	NRNP	Non Recurring Non Project	\$ 88,000	\$ 43,500	\$ 44,500	\$ 88,000	\$ 43,500	\$ 44,500
D300	Parks and Recreation	230	Parks and Recreation Grants	OPER	Operating					\$ 880	\$ (880)
D300	Parks and Recreation	239	Parks Souvenir	OPER	Operating	\$ 321,884	\$ 248,097	\$ 73,787	\$ 321,884	\$ 248,097	\$ 73,787
D300	Parks and Recreation	240	Lake Pleasant Recreation Services	NRNP	Non Recurring Non Project	\$ 1,638,191	\$ 226,536	\$ 1,411,655			
D300	Parks and Recreation	240	Lake Pleasant Recreation Services	OPER	Operating	\$ 4,180,807	\$ 3,311,412	\$ 869,395	\$ 4,180,807	\$ 4,321,252	\$ (140,445)
D300	Parks and Recreation	241	Parks Enhancement	NRNP	Non Recurring Non Project	\$ 1,205,000	\$ 589,478	\$ 615,522			
D300	Parks and Recreation	241	Parks Enhancement	OPER	Operating	\$ 6,825,259	\$ 6,668,274	\$ 156,985	\$ 6,825,259	\$ 7,681,975	\$ (856,716)
D300	Parks and Recreation	243	Parks Donations	NRNP	Non Recurring Non Project	\$ 78,500		\$ 78,500			
D300	Parks and Recreation	243	Parks Donations	OPER	Operating	\$ 32,240	\$ 22,029	\$ 10,211	\$ 47,876	\$ 36,911	\$ 10,965
D300	Parks and Recreation	243	Parks Donations	WMD3	Daisy Mountain And Trails	\$ 135,000		\$ 135,000			
D300	Parks and Recreation	296	Coronavirus Fiscal Recovery	NRNP	Non Recurring Non Project	\$ 6,800,000	\$ 1,775,203	\$ 5,024,797	\$ 6,800,000	\$ 1,775,203	\$ 5,024,797

**Parks Visitor Attendance Report:** (page 12)

**Parks Concessionaire Attendance Report:** (page 13)

**100 Miles in 100 Days Challenge Results and Fun Facts:** (page 14-15)

**Contract Administration:**

- **McDowell Mountain:** On May 6, 2020, the County and Southwest Wildlife Conservation Center entered into an agreement to design and develop a new conservation center and a nature center. The effective date, per terms of the agreement, was put on hold until the COVID-19 public health emergency declared by the State of Arizona,

or any extension thereof, has been rescinded, revoked, repealed, or otherwise canceled. As the Governor lifted this emergency on March 13, 2022, we now have an effective date of March 13, 2022, for this agreement.

**Human Resources**

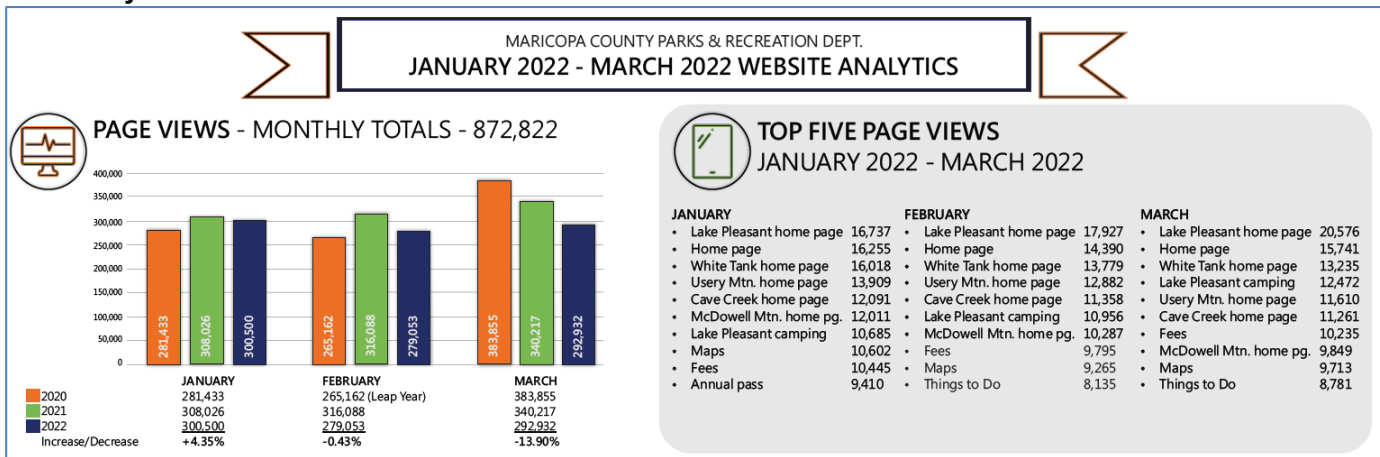
- **Welcome/Promotions/Transfers:**
  - Andrew Torres, Transferring to Contact Station Assistant, San Tan, 03/07/2022
  - Andrew Schnapp, transferred to the Park Assistant, White Tank, 03/07/2022
  - Frank Gomez, Park Maintenance Worker, Usery, 03/14/2022
  - James Brubaker, Park Custodian, White Tank, 03/28/2022
  - Steven Heinsma, Park Supervisor, McDowell, 03/28/2022
  - Jennifer Harris, Park Asset and Inventory Coordinator, Headquarters, 04/04/2022
  - Sonia Eby, Contact Station Assistant, Lake Pleasant, 04/05/2022
  - Tammi Watkins, Park Assistant, Estrella, 04/26/2022
  - Charles Tillinghast, Park Custodian, Lake Pleasant, 04/29/2022
  - Bruce Jean, Park Maintenance Worker, Lake Pleasant, 05/02/2022
  - Jared Angstead, Park Assistant, Usery, 05/02/2022
  
- **Farewells**
  - Ryan Dunning, Nav Aide Tech, Lake Pleasant, 03/31/2022
  
- **Vacancies**
  - Park Maintenance Worker, Lake Pleasant, PCN 1400, in recruitment
  - Custodian, Usery, PCN 80303, in background check
  - Admin Staff Supervisor, Lake Pleasant, PCN 80307, in recruitment
  - Park Maintenance Worker, San Tan, PCN 76932, in background check
  - Contact Station Assistant, White Tank, PCN 76386, in background check
  - Navigational Aide Technician, Lake Pleasant, PCN 32823, in recruitment
  - Trails Project Manager, Trails Crew, PCN 80008, in recruitment
  - Contact Station Assistant, Lake Pleasant, PCN 79569 (Temp/PT) in recruitment
  - Accounting Specialist PT/Temp (NEW), Headquarters, PCN 80601, in recruitment
  - On Hold:
    - Park Custodian (Temp/PT) (NEW), Lake Pleasant, PCN 80408
    - Regional Park Superintendent, PCN 33965
    - Office Assistant Specialized, White Tank, PCN18976

**Volunteer Hours (FY22 through April 2022):**

TOTAL Volunteer Hours, by month													
	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	YTD Total
FY22 - All Hours	3268	3362	4038	8069	11154	13295	13935	10061	13144	8954	0	0	89,280
FY21 - All Hours	2,800	2,738	2,699	8,598	11,094	11,790	13,369	12,121	13,745	7,826	3,962	4,428	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
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
Financial Impact of Volunteers, by Month													
	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	YTD Total
FY22 Financial Impact	\$88,890	\$91,446	\$109,834	\$219,477	\$303,389	\$361,624	\$379,032	\$273,659	\$357,517	\$243,549	\$0	\$0	\$2,428,416
FY21 Financial Impact	\$71,204	\$69,627	\$68,636	\$218,647	\$282,120	\$299,820	\$339,974	\$308,237	\$349,535	\$199,015	\$100,754	\$112,604	\$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
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

Special Days of Service event listings:	Date	Attendance	Hours
McDowell - Adopt-a-Trail	3/5/2022	11	44
White Tank - Invasive Removal	3/9/2022	10	35
Cave Creek - Trail Maintenance	3/12/2022	3	12
Spur Cross - Invasive Removal	3/19/2022	8	28
Lake - Boy Scouts - Clean-Up	3/20/2022	2	6
McDowell - Adopt-a-Trail	3/20/2022	13	36
MTPF - Trail Maintenance	3/20/2022	3	14
Lake - Clean-Up	3/23/2022	15	45
Spur Cross - Butterfly	3/26/2022	4	11
Lake - LDS Clean-Up	3/26/2022	150	300
Estrella - Butterfly	3/26/2022	5	15
Cave Creek - Trail Maintenance	3/26/2022	5	20
HRP - Butterfly	3/26/2022	6	24
White Tank - Invasive Removal	3/29/2022	3	12
McDowell - Invasive Removal	4/1/2022	4	8
McDowell - Invasive Removal	4/2/2022	6	24
Spur Cross - Invasive Removal	4/7/2022	4	14
White Tank - Butterfly	4/8/2022	6	21
White Tank - Bioblitz	4/9/2022	58	464
HRP - Bioblitz	4/9/2022	83	664
Usery - Cub Scouts	4/9/2022	19	67
Spur Cross - Invasive Removal	4/15/2022	4	14
Cave Creek - Trail Maintenance	4/16/2022	1	4
White Tank - Invasive Removal	4/20/2022	14	49
McDowell - Invasive Removal	4/22/2022	5	20
Cave Creek - Invasive Removal	4/26/2022	4	14
Spur Cross - Native Seed Harvest	4/28/2022	5	15

**Web Analytics:**



**Planning and Development Division**

**Project Management**

- The project manager completed the resurfacing and restriping of the parking lot at the Desert Outdoor Center.
- The rebuilding of the Lake Pleasant 10 Lane boat ramp ET Bed started in mid-March and is expected to be completed by the end of May.
- The McDowell Campground electrical, plumbing, and campsite design was completed at the end of April. This project will upgrade campsite pedestals, hose bibs, switchgear, and add 14 new campsites in the south loop of the campground.

### Trades Crew

- The Trades Crew completed the following:
  - Lake Pleasant
    - Repaired broken water line that provides water to the 10-lane restrooms. (The 2" waterline was leaking due to a failed coupler)
    - Troubleshoot and installed a new water heater for the group Javalina campground.
    - Repaired the dump station and Discovery Center septic clogs.
    - Repaired staff support air conditioning and performed preventive maintenance on electrical gears
    - Removed old blue building located at the 10-lane east parking lot
    - Addressed Bajada lift station, retrofitted photocells, and repaired lighting at various locations with LED lights, and completed preventative maintenance on chlorinator stations.
  - McDowell
    - Repaired the Pressure Reducing Valve on the main water line at the Four Peaks area.
    - Replaced iron rangers.
  - Spur Cross - Removed and installed a new style Iron Ranger at the entrance.
  - HQ - Replaced exhaust fan and replaced six bad hand dryers throughout the park system.
  - Desert Outdoor Center
    - Troubleshoot and repaired the walk-in cooler condensing unit.
    - Animals now have a new Reverse Osmosis water system
  - Hassayampa - Repaired the domestic water line leak near the nature center.
  - Estrella – spread 180 tons of decomposed granite on the berm.
  - Buckeye Hills – repaired air conditioning and replaced exterior lighting with LED fixtures.
  - System-Wide – repaired electrical pedestals at various locations.



Lake Pleasant – Agua Fria – graded and repaired road and wash area.



Usery - Custom fabricated two gates.

### Maricopa Trail, Sun Circle, and Trailhead Facilities:

The following trail segments are currently in progress – Spur Cross and White Tank segments 1, 6, 7, 18, 20, 22, 27, 33, 35 76, and 77.

- Agreement preparation/negotiations
  - City of Phoenix – IGA for Segment 7 Sun Circle/Maricopa Trail approved by the Board of Supervisors on 3/28/2022.
  - CAP – License application for Segment 76 submitted 12/15/2020.
  - WAPA (Western Area Power Administration) license applications (four) for Segment 76 were verbally approved 7/20/21. Pending receipt of the license for submittal to Board of Supervisors.
  - ADOT – Guadalupe Bridge re-construction with the multi-use path in planning. The I-10 rebuild project began in November 2021.
- Construction
  - Laid out the new connector trail with pin flags at Usery in April 2022. Construction to be scheduled when final Cultural Resource Survey report complete.
  - The OHV trail re-route due to construction at Vulture Mountain. Currently working with the Trades Crew to assemble rental equipment and schedule.
  - Hiked new trail at Estrella Park connecting two sections of the Gadsen Trail with a consultant archeologist 4/21/2022. Construction to be scheduled when final Cultural Resource Survey report complete.
  - Reviewed options for high school mountain bike competitions at Estrella Comp Track with bike club and management.
  - Determined re-route around eroded Goldmine Trail at San Tan in April 2022. Ordering Cultural Resource Survey for construction.

- Maintenance
  - Continued AmeriCorps (ACE) crew deployment from January 2022 and will complete 5/18/2022. Currently working in Spur Cross and White Tank Parks. Funding provided by the American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA).
- Route Determination
  - Segment 77 Vulture Mountain to Lake Pleasant – Submitted route to BLM 1/25/21. Site visits completed April 2021. Refined new trail routes in January 2022. Completed connection between Hassayampa River Preserve and Vulture Mountain April 2022.
  - Segment 76 White Tank to Vulture Mountain - Submitted route to BLM 1/25/21. Site visits completed May 2021. Refined route December 2021. Holding monthly BLM (Bureau of Land Management) meetings. Working with BOR (Bureau of Reclamation) and CAP (Central Arizona Project) on CAP canal alignment near Hassayampa River.

### Natural Resources

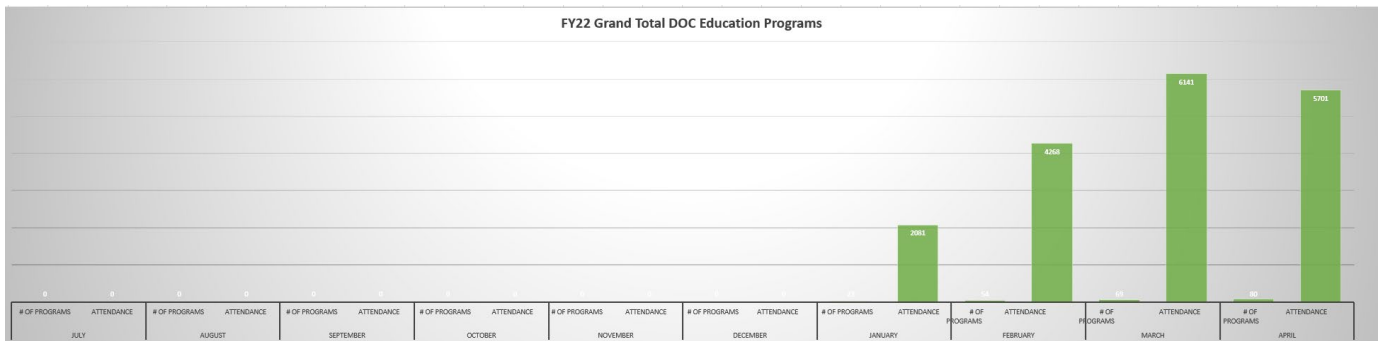
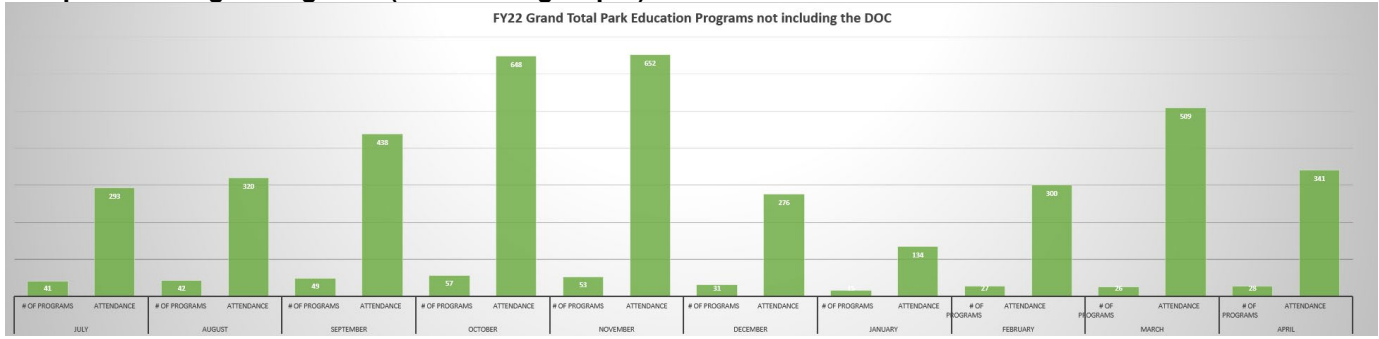
- The Natural Resource Specialist (NRS) contracted with the National Park Service (NPS) under the current IGA to treat Invasive species at Spur Cross Ranch Conservation Area. The NPS spent six days treating 40 acres of invasive species along the trails and riparian habitats.
- In addition, the NRS finished up the Desert Defenders program in April with a total of 115,598 plants removed within 30 acres at four parks.
- The NRS hosted three Native Seed Harvest events where volunteers helped collect native seeds within the parks. Thus far, we have a total of approximately 22 lbs. of seed, representing 14 species.
- The NRS has spent the last few years developing baseline data and current conditions for all the parks and prepared a draft of the Natural Resource Plan. The plan is currently going through staff edits and should be completed and ready to roll out with the 2030 Parks Vision Strategic System Master Plan.

### Parks Planner

- Parks Vision 2030:
  - Continued progress on Chapter 2: Existing Conditions, Chapter 5 Outreach, and GIS mapping data.
  - Met with staff from the County's Planning and Development Department to discuss the Parks Vision 2030 project and other development projects.
  - Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department has been accepted to do a presentation on the Parks Vision 2030 plan at the 2022 National Recreation and Park Association conference in Phoenix, September 20-22<sup>nd</sup> this year. A session application request has also been submitted to the Arizona chapter of the American Planning Association (AZ APA) for their conference this August in Paradise Valley.
- Tribal Communities: Coordinated a meeting requested by the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community with the Maricopa Trail Manager and Natural Resource Specialist. The main topic of discussion was the Sun Circle and Maricopa Trail which use the Salt River Project Operation and Maintenance roads as the trail through this area. Suggestions were made for new trail signage to alert users where they are and to stay on the trail. Drafting text to add to the Parks' maps so users know where tribal land is located and that it is not permissible to access.
- The Parks Planner met with North Valley Outdoor Network (NVON), Lower Gila River Collaborative, and NVON Trail Connectivity groups. Discussion centered around bringing in cities and towns to review their park and pathways plans to help MCDPRD start to collect important information for the regional trail system plan update.
- A consultant has been contracted for a trail cultural resources study needed in Estrella Mountain Regional Park.

**Parks Operations Report**

**Interpretive Ranger Programs (FY22 through April)**



**Cave Creek Regional Park**

- Completed two mine closures.
- On March 11-13, Ultraman Arizona (UMAZ) - Day 1 swim event occurred at Lake Pleasant, Day 2 and Day 3 at Cave Creek Regional Park for the finish area. UMAZ is a three-day ultra-triathlon. Approximately 45 athletes rode bicycles 171 miles around the valley on day two and finished at our Ramada group area. The participants ran 52.4 miles on day three and finished at our Ramada group area.
- The Spur Cross and Cave Creek staff and some exceptional volunteers completed the last three mine closures this month. We are happy to say that this 2-year project is completed with 13 mine closures. The staff will monitor the sites annually to make sure everything is intact.
- The Spur Cross Interpretive Ranger and Cave Creek maintenance staff have been busy installing fencing to the east boundary.
- The maintenance crew has assisted the park host in cleaning up two illegal dumps at Adobe this month. We were able to identify one of the contractors that dumped one of the loads by an invoice that was found in the debris. We called MCSO for assistance and the contractor sent his crew out to pick up everything they had dumped.

**Desert Outdoor Center**

- The Rangers welcomed 1,236 students and 248 teachers/chaperones to enjoy over 68 outdoor education programs in March.
- For their third visit this school year, Notre Dame Catholic Prep brought 50 students to participate in their Kairos retreat.
- The facility was rented for one very special wedding event for Jamie Cardin and Devan Aare-Meza, which 100 wonderful guests attended.
- In April, 13 schools brought over 1,000 students and chaperones, with Archery and Survival being some of the more popular programs this month.



*Desert Outdoor Center – Welcome!  
 Derik Rodgers, new ranger from  
 Pennsylvania!*

- Our facility also hosted two non-program groups, Notre Dame Preparatory High School and Bourgade Catholic High School, both of which hosted their retreats for 132 visitors.
- The Ranger Office has new vinyl flooring and rearranged furniture to make space for all the rangers to use the shared office more efficiently.
- April was a busy wedding month for the Center. We hosted four ceremonies/receptions, bringing about 500 guests that otherwise would have never had the opportunity to visit our facility.
- On the last Saturday of the month, we welcomed 116 Girl Scouts and 25 adult leaders on a Desert Survival Theme Day organized by a young lady working to earn her Gold Award Take Action Project, which is similar to the Boy Scout Eagle project and award.

**Estrella Mountain Regional Park**

- On March 5<sup>th</sup>, several car clubs gathered in some reserved ramadas and some first-come, first-served areas ramadas. Altogether, about 100 detailed cars and 300 spectator vehicles showed up. About 1,000 people were enjoying the park and the fine weather.
- The next step of auctioning the remaining rodeo arena items, such as panels, gates, and chutes was held in April.
- Turf area tree trimming and general clean-up occurred to prepare for the busy Easter weekend. In addition, the park staff performed general trail maintenance on some front country trails.
- Easter weekend was very busy this year at Estrella. All 25 picnic ramadas were rented and many locations in between ramadas were full of family gatherings. There were many positive comments from the public enjoying the renovations and new ramadas.
- Post-Easter weekend, the staff and hosts cleaned up leftover eggs, confetti, and general Easter gathering picnic remains.



*Estrella - Rodeo bleachers auctioned – winning bid over \$27,000.*



*Estrella – Ranger Nikki leading a program*



*Estrella – constant weeding throughout the park – tree wells, ramadas, and butterfly garden.*



*Estrella – tons of ramada reservation*

**Hassayampa River Preserve**

- A Request for Proposal (RFP) process has been started for the Hassayampa Visitor Center's exhibits.
- Planning continued in March for several upcoming events, including the area BioBlitz (biodiversity citizen science project) and several wildlife research projects. The Preserve participated in the Hassayampa Ecosystem Bioblitz in which dozens of volunteers documented as many species of plants and animals as possible within 24 hours.
- The Preserve and Friends of Hassayampa hosted the annual Nature Poetry contest. A record number of entries were received. Winning poems will be displayed along the trails throughout April.
- Staff hosted an end-of-season volunteer lunch to thank hosts and community volunteers for their hard work this season.
- Staff attended Butterfly Monitoring training hosted by the Department's Natural Resource Specialist and participated in the subsequent butterfly count at the Preserve.
- Park maintenance staff repaired a significant water leak with the assistance of the Trades crew supervisor.
- Preserve staff and volunteers also participated in returning the in-person event, *All Vulture's Eve*, sponsored by the Town of Wickenburg to celebrate the spring migration of turkey vultures through the area. Approximately 210 people attended the event held at the pedestrian bridge in Wickenburg.



- April was a busy month at the Preserve. High visitation continued throughout the month.
- The Trades crew completed some septic system electrical repairs.
- At the beginning of the month, the park supervisor and several MCPRD rangers staffed discovery tables at the Mesquite Festival in Wickenburg.
- The Preserve partnered with Vulture City to be one of three venues hosting the *Impressions of Vulture Mine City Art Show*.
- Staff met with The Nature Conservancy for continued planning to transfer the remainder of the Preserve to MCPRD.
- Interpretive rangers and volunteers conducted seven on-site programs, including a Butterfly Monitoring and a Palms Discovery Station, highlighting the 150-year-old palm trees in honor of Arbor Day at the Preserve.

#### **Lake Pleasant Regional Park**

- Our winter volunteers are starting to depart - we say goodbye to Chuck and Lisa, who helped us tremendously in our Entry Station booths. We also say goodbye to Jan - who helps keep the Discovery Center up and running.
- American Conservation Experience finished their trail work assignments at the Lake. They will still be in the park as they complete their Maricopa Trail assignments.
- Air Quality Control fuel tank inspections - we passed. But unfortunately, the Discovery Center restrooms are up and down again this month.
- Hosted three volunteer clean-up events for a total of about 150 people. Also, hosted the Ultraman Triathlon Race event - all went well.
- Hosted a CAP Legislative Affairs tour showcasing the Dam and CAP's involvement.
- Bald Eagle closure has been administratively lifted as of the end of March and staff removed the physical closure on April 6<sup>th</sup>.
- A sure increase in visitation occurred during various Spring Break sessions, and we are moving into our spring/summer seasons.
- The Discovery Center will remain closed until further notice due to a lack of personnel.
- The Roadrunner Campground improvement project has been delayed from July 2022 to July 2023 due to a 50-week delay in parts.
- The Dam Good Run went off without a hitch on Sunday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- Easter Weekend (April 17<sup>th</sup>) was busy but manageable.
- Scorpion Bay Marina is moving along with its rental cabins.

#### **McDowell Mountain Regional Park**

- The snakes are out, with the wintering snakes coming from underneath the Visitor Center. Park visitors enjoyed seeing them from a distance.
- The park hosted the annual Host Appreciation Celebration with deli sandwiches made to their order.
- Several fence cuts along the eastern boundary with Fort McDowell Indian Reservation allowed the cattle to come into Escondido Tank for water.
- The trailer porta-potty toilets at Minks Camp went out of service due to a possible tank leak.
- The Visitor Center was painted, leak prevention implemented, and the area cleaned up around the building to improve its appearance.
- Plumbing repairs were completed at the entry station due to leech field problems.
- Completed trail maintenance on Pemberton Trail to repair erosion from wash areas.
- *Cactus Cup* was held in mid-March with 735 bikers riding through the desert
- *Hike for the Homeless* had 298 hikers raising funds for the homeless.
- REI held a large event in the youth campground, drawing in a few hundred people.
- New iron rangers were installed at the 150<sup>th</sup> and the 158<sup>th</sup> entrances. Additionally, the 168<sup>th</sup> entrance will get a new Iron ranger soon.
- The park entrance gate was backed into by a trailer which caused it to hang up periodically. Trades crew came out and repaired the gate.
- Septic lines were flushed at host sites, and locations have been identified that need to be pumped.
- Small projects for future months are being identified and scheduled with maintenance.

#### **San Tan Mountain Regional Park**

- San Tan sold 638 annual passes in March and 421 in April.
- The Ranger Nikki presented two programs at Usery (Natural Resources butterfly program and wildflower walk) and two programs at Estrella (wildflower walk and a well-attended homeschool discovery station).

- Ranger Nikki also assisted with one field trip at the Desert Outdoor Center and led a Desert Defenders invasive species pull at White Tank.
- Park Staff Rick and Blake facilitated the Volunteer Appreciation party at Usery park.
- The San Tan Shredders bike group held a bike rodeo skills clinic for 15 children.
- The 364-house development project outside the main gate started and the construction company donated seven Barrel cacti. Park Maintenance planted them around the Nature Center complex.
- Park volunteer Peter led the San Tan Trail Runners group in a trail work project to make repairs on Dynamite Trail.
- Aravaipa held its annual *Night Bike Race* (92 participants) and *Night Running Race* (345 participants).

### **Spur Cross Ranch Conservation Area**

- The Interpretive Ranger and Spur Cross Trails Volunteers assisted the maintenance staff at Cave Creek with the installation of a memorial bench and completed two mine closures.
- On March 25<sup>th</sup>, the Sierra Club assisted in weed removal around the parking area. On March 19<sup>th</sup>, the park held a Desert Defenders Program, including weed removal around the parking lot and Dragonfly Trail. Finally, on March 26<sup>th</sup>, a Butterfly Monitoring program was held with seven attendees.
- Staff completed minor trail work.

### **Usery Mountain Regional Park**

- Usery Park and San Tan staff hosted the end-of-year Host celebration party for Usery and San Tan hosts; all that attended had a wonderful time, and many were happy to see the celebration(s) reinstated this season.
- Several Park Hosts left early in March, remaining hosts and staff did an awesome job at handling all as March is typically our busiest month.
- Park Hosts at the Archery Range has been rebuilding and repairing several target butts throughout the range before they head out for the season.
- The maintenance staff has been busy weeding and trimming around our Nature Center, Entry Station, and Restroom areas.
- Ranger Nikki and Ranger Dave have been performing public programs at Usery Park, and many have enjoyed them.
- Our campground has remained full throughout April; we've relied on our Overflow area for additional camping throughout several weekends.
- Cub Scout Pack 380 participated in a clean-up project, completing trash pick-up and trail work around Merkle Trail, the Nature Center, and the front of the park entrance.
- The maintenance staff has continued work with weeding and trimming around our Nature Center (amphitheater) and several parking lots and restroom areas.

### **White Tank Mountain Regional Park**

- A hazard was identified at area 1 restroom, a four-inch drop where the pavement met the trailhead; we filled the area to grade with fill dirt and finished with ¼- decomposed granite.
- The wash before the competitive track had significant potholes; staff filled and compacted with the tractor.
- Boulders were strategically placed at the comp track, where visitors wandered off-trail.
- The White Tank Mountain Conservancy held its Steward Appreciation Event on March 5.
- McDowell Mountain Cycles held their adopt-a-trail event on Saturday, March 5<sup>th</sup>. Mesquite Canyon Trail Runs on March 5<sup>th</sup> was part of the Desert Runner Trail Series.
- On March 30<sup>th</sup>, the Area 4 closure for construction coordination meeting was held.
- On March 31<sup>st</sup>, staff held our Volunteer Appreciation lunch with all hosts and Senior supervisors present.
- Staff is excited to announce we have 11 summer hosts working this year!
- Partitions in the family camp men's restroom were damaged and were repaired using metal plates and bolts.
- Continuous roadside vegetation removal.
- Boulders were placed in the family campground to prevent unauthorized parking in the desert vegetation.
- On April 9<sup>th</sup>, White Tank Park hosted the 2022 Hassayampa Ecosystems BioBlitz with the Arizona Game and Fish Department, the Arizona Chapter of Wildlife, Maricopa County Parks, and several other partner organizations that mapped out the biodiversity of our desert ecosystem with 58 observers.
- On April 13<sup>th</sup>, the parks held the Black Rock Adopt-A-Trail clean-up event.
- A Bird Walk with Ranger Eric had 10 participants.
- On April 16<sup>th</sup>, a Native American Style Flute concert was held at the Nature Center with 26 participants.
- The Saguaro 7k run was held on April 16<sup>th</sup> with 38 participants.

- Easter Sunday was a success, with all ramadas full for the day. In addition, our volunteers held a *Snakes and Skulls* exhibit on Easter Sunday.
- The Emergency Access Study field visit was held to determine the feasibility of northern exits.
- An invasive weed pull with 20 participants was held on the 20<sup>th</sup>.
- AmeriCorps have conducted extensive trail repairs on multiple trails over two weeks at White Tank.
- On the 30<sup>th</sup>, the *Birds of White Tank* with Joe Ford had 6 participants.

**Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Visitor Attendance Report**  
 FY2022 (thru April 2022)

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	MONTH TO DATE	% of Change (M to M)	YEAR TO YEAR	% of Change (YtoY)
FY21	Jul 20	Aug 20	Sep 20	Oct 20	Nov 20	Dec 20	Jan 21	Feb 21	Mar 21	Apr 21	May 21	Jun 21				
FY20	Jul 19	Aug 19	Sep 19	Oct 19	Nov 19	Dec 19	Jan 20	Feb 20	Mar 20	Apr 20	May 20	Jun 20				
<b>Cave Creek</b>	1,381	1,198	2,515	6,747	7,873	15,242	13,502	13,094	18,600	13,639	-	-	93,791	23.9%	93,791	13.2%
FY21	1,122	911	1,325	4,688	12,084	12,121	7,593	10,523	16,939	8,367	4,046	3136	75,673	-6.4%	82,855	-3.1%
FY20	363	505	959	4,233	9,450	9,775	13,542	14,572	16,079	11,336	3,145	1552	80,814	1.5%	85,511	3.0%
<b>Estrella Park</b>	1,184	1,278	2,605	5,891	7,398	12,222	14,310	12,180	15,092	13,180	-	-	85,340	-7.5%	85,340	-14.2%
FY21	2,571	3,317	4,696	8,333	12,723	8,483	16,806	11,991	15,489	7,869	4,770	2,371	92,278	16.9%	99,419	12.4%
FY20	1,350	1,954	3,571	6,034	9,547	6,841	12,726	11,067	16,449	9,370	5,819	3,667	78,909	6.8%	88,415	6.2%
<b>McDowell Mtn</b>	964	1,310	2,032	7,745	8,208	15,958	15,560	15,706	18,281	17,854	-	-	103,618	-4.0%	103,618	-9.4%
FY21	2,667	2,275	3,806	10,302	16,229	17,207	18,219	13,673	15,294	8,218	4,374	2,056	107,890	-2.6%	114,322	-4.0%
FY20	1,095	1,407	3,520	11,570	12,574	13,877	17,846	16,006	18,997	13,822	5,654	2,779	110,714	9.5%	119,147	11.5%
<b>San Tan Park</b>	3,753	4,506	4,105	9,045	18,584	21,434	30,452	26,402	29,732	13,033	-	-	161,046	-21.8%	161,046	-27.5%
FY21	8,080	7,029	11,102	16,676	27,144	20,844	36,069	34,131	30,333	14,658	10,262	5,752	206,066	18.3%	222,080	10.3%
FY20	3,941	3,832	6,009	12,801	17,839	16,810	27,717	25,062	33,803	26,313	17,551	9,622	174,127	15.4%	201,300	18.8%
<b>Spur Cross</b>	299	395	500	1,484	2,859	4,031	7,069	8,168	5,818	4,352	-	-	34,975	1.0%	34,975	-4.3%
FY21	171	121	354	1,984	3,826	5,218	6,273	4,695	7,886	4,093	1318	620	34,621	56.0%	36,559	59.2%
FY20	113	122	244	730	826	4,208	4,592	4,569	4,508	2,276	563	210	22,188	-2.0%	22,961	-3.0%
<b>Usery Mtn Park</b>	3,926	2,811	5,039	14,212	16,450	38,086	29,834	30,249	34,433	22,465	-	-	197,505	-11.4%	197,505	-16.8%
FY21	5,981	7,587	9,683	18,705	33,071	28,940	41,117	31,167	31,289	15,370	9,282	5,111	222,910	-0.7%	237,303	-3.5%
FY20	5,562	5,959	8,133	16,411	26,374	23,339	34,431	33,957	44,356	25,954	12,914	8,453	224,476	4.2%	245,843	3.3%
<b>White Tank</b>	4,923	4,068	5,201	17,768	20,775	42,163	36,298	35,679	40,771	24,697	-	-	232,343	-6.8%	232,343	-13.7%
FY21	8,801	7,667	11,991	20,736	31,836	34,425	42,320	36,939	37,285	17,217	13,590	6,415	249,217	-8.1%	269,222	-9.8%
FY20	4,913	5,658	9,810	20,115	31,195	27,762	39,931	40,494	64,224	27,038	16,680	10,640	271,140	-0.7%	298,460	0.0%
<b>Hassayampa</b>	286	333	423	1105	2,669	1,790	1,771	2,096	2,850	2,286	-	-	15,609	3.8%	15,609	-8.7%
FY21	855	632	840	1681	1,984	1,204	2,014	1,786	2,363	1,672	1513	555	15,031	8.3%	17,099	-0.9%
FY20	453	418	591	1405	1,498	971	1,746	2,002	2,321	2,477	2072	1294	13,882	13.8%	17,248	18.9%
<b>Lake Pleasant</b>	88,853	62,651	64,323	50,169	38,347	45,239	35,415	44,353	90,764	152,545	-	-	672,659	21.2%	672,659	-6.9%
FY21	101,160	96,366	79,426	58,720	40,177	22,387	27,877	25,987	42,967	59,969	91,403	76,394	555,036	8.9%	722,833	-0.3%
FY20	90,616	63,458	51,411	37,125	31,095	18,054	32,436	40,902	69,504	75,153	116,342	98,916	509,754	3.3%	725,012	7.6%
<b>DOC</b>	0	-	0	-	43	-	84	1,178	1,160	2,276	-	-	4,741	#DIV/0!	4,741	#DIV/0!
FY21	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-100.0%	0	-100.0%
FY20	140	64	381	1,556	1887	1,330	1,622	1,630	1,030	0	0	0	9,640	-16.2%	9,640	-22.7%
<b>Totals</b>	105,569	78,550	86,743	114,166	123,206	196,165	184,295	189,105	257,501	266,327	-	-	1,601,627	2.8%	1,601,627	-11.1%
FY21	131,408	125,905	123,223	141,825	179,074	150,829	198,288	170,892	199,845	137,433	140,558	102,412	1,558,722	4.2%	1,801,692	-0.7%
FY20	108,546	83,377	84,629	111,980	142,285	122,967	186,589	190,261	271,271	193,739	180,740	137,153	1,495,644	23.9%	1,813,537	12.6%

**Maricopa County Parks Concessionaire Attendance Report  
 FY2022 (thru April 2022)**

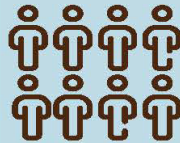
	Jul 21	Aug 21	Sep 21	Oct 21	Nov 21	Dec 21	Jan 22	Feb 22	Mar 22	Apr 22	May 22	Jun 22	YEAR TO DATE
	Jul-20	Aug-20	Sep-20	Oct-20	Nov-20	Dec-20	Jan-21	Feb-21	Mar-21	Apr-21	May-21	Jun-21	
	Jul-19	Aug-19	Sep-19	Oct-19	Nov-19	Dec-19	Jan-20	Feb-20	Mar-20	Apr-20	May-20	Jun-20	
<b>Victory Lane</b>													
July 2021 - June 2022	8,891	7,619	9,709	11,465	10,260	8,204	10,386	10,301	11,483	10,667	-	-	98,985
July 2020 - June 2021	11,020	11,810	12,957	13,664	12,762	12,762	11,735	14,058	13,599	12,568	14,523	9,527	150,985
July 2019 - June 2020	8,150	6,955	7,322	15,042	15,548	8,428	10,000	13,788	7,891	-	6,535	9,597	109,256
<b>Six Flags Hurricane Harbor</b>													
July 2021 - June 2022	122,546	39,199	30,247	2,985	-	-	-	-	11,057	-	-	-	206,034
July 2020 - June 2021	1,117	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	17,494	26,810	53,203	189,216	287,840
July 2019 - June 2020	122,835	54,978	36,381	8,559	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	17,069	239,822
<b>Saguaro Central Railroad Preservation Society</b>													
July 2021 - June 2022	-	-	-	510	382	636	573	748	-	-	-	-	2,849
July 2020 - June 2021	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
July 2019 - June 2020	445	-	277	1,048	609	10,525	943	507	233	-	-	-	14,587
<b>Phoenix Kart Racing Association</b>													
July 2021 - June 2022	706	855	1,118	1,199	997	979	1,051	2,472	-	-	-	-	9,377
July 2020 - June 2021	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,085	1,130	1,111	1,137	1,053	861	8,377
<b>Adobe Mountain Speedway</b>													
July 2021 - June 2022	-	180	908	1,199	1,089	59	913	1,911	1,883	-	-	-	8,142
July 2020 - June 2021	-	-	-	-	-	-	345	1,770	923	2,206	1,832	-	7,076
<b>Arizona Model Pilots Society</b>													
July 2021 - June 2022	452	562	593	810	1,080	1,602	658	872	-	-	-	-	6,629
July 2020 - June 2021	419	443	482	554	540	590	-	-	-	-	-	478	3,506
<b>The 500 Club Golf Course</b>													
July 2021 - June 2022	5,367	5,533	5,261	7,363	9,077	8,147	9,244	8,900	10,227	-	-	-	69,119
July 2020 - June 2021	4,814	5,373	5,458	6,575	7,644	7,755	8,889	9,920	10,843	10,157	9,203	6,375	93,006
July 2019 - June 2020	3,942	4,165	3,867	2,742	6,586	6,020	8,083	8,387	8,883	9,060	8,897	6,874	77,306
<b>Casey At The Bat</b>													
July 2021 - June 2022	1,644	2,898	3,200	4,207	3,514	2,826	2,859	4,727	5,887	-	-	-	31,762
July 2020 - June 2021	1,644	2,328	2,250	3,015	2,767	2,540	2,795	3,608	5,685	5,468	4,692	2,965	39,757
July 2019 - June 2020	2,450	2,360	2,803	2,928	3,320	1,745	3,556	4,530	3,476	92	1,050	1,977	30,287
<b>Paradise Valley Golf Course</b>													
July 2021 - June 2022	2,181	2,120	2,387	1,917	3,689	3,172	3,953	4,193	4,683	3,764	-	-	32,059
July 2020 - June 2021	2,143	1,782	2,697	1,939	3,568	7,595	3,619	4,244	4,786	4,148	3,043	1,976	41,540
July 2019 - June 2020	1,443	1,468	1,547	1,413	2,421	1,957	3,275	3,602	3,849	3,296	3,033	2,809	30,113
<b>Cave Creek Trail Rides</b>													
July 2021 - June 2022	-	-	-	-	1,069	1,333	1,440	1,462	2,932	-	-	-	8,236
July 2020 - June 2021	-	-	-	39	1,256	1,584	1,382	1,597	3,260	2,110	132	-	11,360
July 2019 - June 2020	-	-	-	176	733	861	912	1,128	962	155	-	-	4,927
<b>Tres Rios Golf Course</b>													
July 2021 - June 2022	665	666	980	1,532	2,469	2,465	3,522	4,446	4,996	-	-	-	21,741
July 2020 - June 2021	-	-	-	-	596	2,815	3,096	3,526	3,425	2,438	1,496	894	18,286
July 2019 - June 2020	838	861	869	1,057	1,867	2,158	3,691	3,528	3,144	2,363	1,738	1,220	23,354
<b>Corral West Horse Adventures</b>													
July 2021 - June 2022	-	-	-	146	879	675	864	935	-	-	-	-	3,500
July 2020 - June 2021	-	-	-	60	157	228	160	258	358	186	102	-	1,509
July 2019 - June 2020	-	-	-	-	62	75	90	63	46	-	-	-	336
<b>Buckeye Hills Shooting Range</b>													
July 2021 - June 2022	345	579	631	996	999	703	708	900	869	-	-	-	6,730
July 2020 - June 2021	831	725	773	1,243	982	875	833	716	711	764	596	510	9,359
July 2019 - June 2020	407	427	554	887	1,050	718	870	883	342	164	995	844	8,141
<b>TOTALS</b>													
July 2021 - June 2022	142,797	60,211	142,797	34,329	35,504	30,801	36,171	41,867	54,017	14,431	-	-	592,926
July 2020 - June 2021	21,988	22,461	24,617	27,089	30,272	36,544	33,939	40,827	62,195	67,992	89,875	212,802	670,601
July 2019 - June 2020	140,510	71,214	53,620	33,852	32,196	32,487	31,420	36,416	28,826	15,150	22,048	40,390	538,129



# MARICOPA COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT FUN FACTS

**DID YOU KNOW THAT THE FIRST CHALLENGE WAS HOSTED IN 2011-2012? YOU KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS? WE'VE BEEN DOING THIS FOR**

*10 years!*



**NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS "OFFICIALLY" REGISTERED**

Participant	1,093
Spouse/Parent	285
Children	160
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,538</b>

## MILES TREKKED

**TOTAL MILES** (all participants)

Year	Total	App	Elog
2022	116,289	106,572	9,717
2021	128,014	109,772	18,242

## PROGRAM MILES

Year	Total	App	Elog
2022	88,375	79,141	9,234
2021	98,244	84,172	14,072

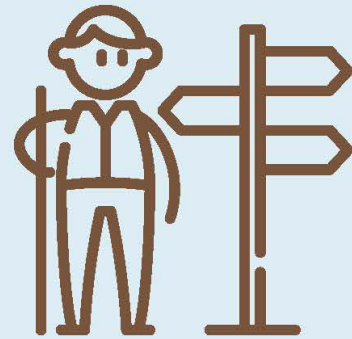
## I HAVE A QUESTION...



This season, we responded to

**604+**

emails from participants.



**HITS TO CHALLENGE PAGE ON WEBSITE**

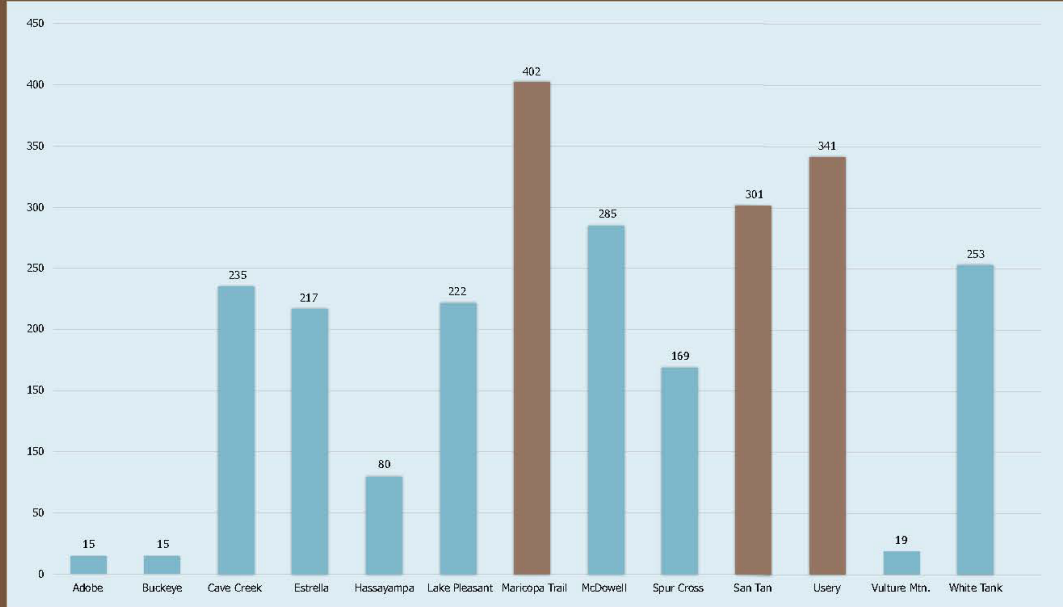
**9,325**

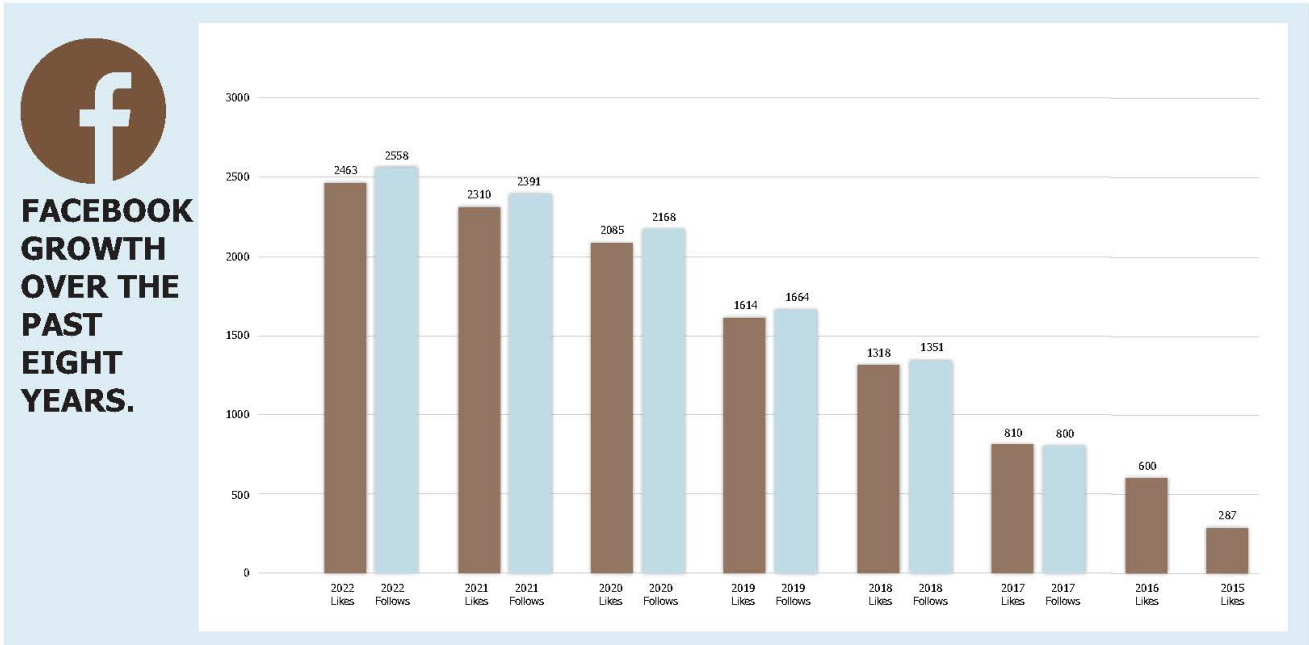
**NUMBER OF ANNUAL PASS HOLDERS**

**387**

**WE ASKED THE 2022 CHALLENGE PARTICIPANTS WHICH PARKS THEY TREKKED IN THIS SEASON.**

**HERE'S WHAT THEY HAD TO SAY...**





**NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS WHO COMPLETED THE CHALLENGE**

**608**

**45** LESS THAN THE 2021 SEASON.

**HOW MANY MILES DID PARTICIPANTS TREK IN 100 DAYS?**

**OVER 1,000 - 1 PARTICIPANT**  
 BREAKDOWN  
 • 01 - HIKER

**500-999 - 11 PARTICIPANTS**  
 BREAKDOWN  
 • 05 - MOUNTAIN BIKERS  
 • 03 - HIKE/RUN COMBO  
 • 02 - HIKERS  
 • 01 - HIKE/BIKE COMBO

**400-499 - 7 PARTICIPANTS**  
 BREAKDOWN  
 • 04 - HIKERS  
 • 03 - MOUNTAIN BIKERS

**300-399 - 15 PARTICIPANTS**  
 BREAKDOWN  
 • 08 - HIKERS  
 • 02 - MOUNTAIN BIKERS  
 • 02 - HIKE/RUN COMBO  
 • 02 - HIKE/BIKE COMBO  
 • 01 - RUN/BIKE COMBO

**200-299 - 73 PARTICIPANTS**  
 BREAKDOWN  
 • 31 - HIKERS  
 • 01 - TRAIL RUNNERS  
 • 25 - MOUNTAIN BIKERS  
 • 09 - HIKE/RUN COMBO  
 • 06 - HIKE/BIKE COMBO  
 • 01 - HIKE/HORSEBACK COMBO

**100-199 - 501 PARTICIPANTS**

*Annual Pass & Retail Center Voucher Winner*

CONGRATULATIONS to Nathan, Julia, and Payton Brummer who are the 2022 recipients of the annual pass and retail center voucher.

CONGRATULATIONS Brummer family and we look forward to seeing you in Maricopa County's regional parks throughout the year!!!

**VISITED MORE THAN THREE PARKS**

PARKS VISITED	PARTICIPANTS
13	01
12	02
11	01
10	05
09	12
08	08
07	20
06	59
05	70
04	122

*Thank you*

A **BIG** thank you to the 187 participants who have completed the 2022 Challenge survey. If you would like to have your voice heard, there's still time to complete the survey at

[www.surveymonkey.com/r/2022ChallengeFeedback](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2022ChallengeFeedback)

The survey closes at 11:45 pm on April 30, 2022.