



Maricopa County Parks & Recreation Department

MEMORANDUM

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

Date: November 12, 2020
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 **September and October 2020**.

NEW! Eco-BLITZ:

Park visitors can now assist the department by participating in a simple natural resource program by joining the Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department for the first-ever Eco-BLITZ (November 2020 through November 2021). Using the free web-based I-Naturalist application, park visitors can visit their favorite Maricopa County regional park, locate a plant or animal, take a few pictures, attempt to identify the species so you are learning as you go, and upload the photos to the I-Naturalist app. Observations will be automatically recorded under the Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department's Eco-BLITZ program. Park visitors can learn more by visiting the County Parks website and clicking on the *Natural Resource Programs* under *About Us*. <https://www.maricopacountyparks.net/about-us/natural-resource-programs/>

Estrella – Tres Rios Golf Course:

In response to the Request for Proposal to manage the Tres Rios Golf Course, the evaluation committee selected Southwest Golf Management, LLC (SWGGM). SWGGM's principles have over 30 years of public and private golf course management expertise. They previously managed three golf courses in Arizona, one of which was just recently sold (Falcon Dunes) and they currently manage three golf courses in California.

On September 16, the Board of Supervisors approved the termination of Tres Rios Golf, LLC (C-Bons) and concurrently approved the assignment to Southwest Golf Management along with an amendment to the existing Use Management Agreement. The purpose of the amendment was to address, among other things, the following:

1. Concessionaire shall provide documentation to demonstrate adequate financing to complete phased improvement projects per Amendment Five Exhibit A;
2. Concessionaire shall establish a reserve fund that shall forfeit to Maricopa County upon termination for cause or default;
3. Amend the payment schedule;
4. Modify the term of the agreement through December 31, 2050;
5. Other administrative actions.

Adobe Dam:

Arizona Model Pilots Association's Management Agreement comes to term on January 6, 2021. They have been a concessionaire at Adobe since 1985, having had two previous management agreements. A Letter of Expression of Interest (LOI) for the management, operations, and maintenance of this model airpark complex or alternate recreation facility was issued on October 15 with a response date of December 3. Due to the proximity of the airpark location within this flood impoundment area along with terrain and land-use restrictions, we are not anticipating a large response to this solicitation.

100 Miles in 100 Days Challenge:

It's time to lace up your shoes and dust off those bikes and saddles for the 100 Miles in 100 Days Challenge! The program officially began on November 1, 2020, and runs through February 8, 2021. While several slight modifications have been made this season for participant and staff safety, efforts have been made to ensure the program remains close to its original premise. This season, participants can look forward to a variety of scavenger hunts sprinkled throughout the park system which are designed to encourage them to explore new trails. Plans are in the works for a couple of other activities to keep participants engaged, but you'll have to

join the Challenge to learn more. Currently, there are roughly 1,100 participants registered with new Challenge members signing up daily. Program details can be found at maricopacountyparks.net.

Coalition for Recreational Trails (CRT's) Award:

The Maricopa Trail and Park Foundation's (MT+PF) *Maricopa Trail Volunteer Stewardship Program* was selected to receive one of the CRT's national awards in 2020 in the category of Engaging Public Sector Partners. The MT+PF received an Arizona State Parks and Trails Recreational Trails Program (RPT) grant earlier this year. The grant funds are used to support segment stewards and trail work volunteers with trail maintenance, etiquette, and safety training on segments of the Maricopa Trail and connecting trails and trailheads within the Parks' system.

Board of Supervisors Agenda Items:

Date/Status	Tracking Number	Summary
9/02/2020 Approved	C-30-21-002-x-00(B)	AZ Game and Fish Heritage Fund Trail Cameral Grant: Accept the Arizona Game and Fish Department (AGFD) awarded Heritage Grant for a Trail Camera Monitoring Program funding in the amount of \$1,938 and will be used to purchase five game cameras and associated equipment to establish a new Trail Camera Monitoring curriculum to help students study wildlife biodiversity at participating MCPRD parks. This provides a benefit in our county to help preserve Arizona's wildlife heritage and to reach new students. A new Trail Camera Monitoring curriculum will be developed utilizing matching funds for Park Interpretive Rangers.
9/16/2020 Approved	C-30-04-027-1-03	Settlement and Mutual Release Agreement with Tres Rios Golf, LLC: Approve and execute the termination of the Use Management Agreement between Maricopa County and Tres Rios Golf.
9/16/2020 Approved	C-30-04-027-1-04	Assignment of Use Management Agreement with Tres Rios Golf, LLC: Approve and execute an Assignment of Use Management Agreement (UMA) among Tres Rios Golf and Southwest Golf Management, LLC, regarding the UMA between Maricopa County and Tres Rios Golf originally approved on March 12, 1997.
9/16/2020 Approved	C-30-04-027-1-05	Amendment Five to Use Management Agreement (UMA) with Southwest Golf Management, LLC: Approve and execute Amendment Five to the UMA between Maricopa County and Southwest Golf Management (Concessionaire). The purpose of Amendment Five is to address, among other things, the following: (i) Concessionaire shall provide documentation to demonstrate adequate financing to complete phased improvement projects per Amendment Five Exhibit A; and (ii) Concessionaire shall establish a reserve fund that shall forfeit to Maricopa County upon termination for cause or default; and (iii) Amend the payment schedule; and (iv) Modify the term of the agreement thru December 31, 2050; and (v) Other administrative actions. All other terms and conditions of the Agreement shall remain in full force and effect.
09/16/2020 Approved	C-06-21-169-X-00	Donations: Accept the monthly donation report from Parks and Recreation for August 2020 for a cash value of \$841.64.
10/21/2020 Approved	C-30-97-025-B-02	Amendment to Special Use Agreement (SUA) with Arizona Model Aviators Association: Approve and execute Amendment Two to the SUA between Maricopa County and Arizona Model Aviators Association at Usery Mountain Regional Park. The purpose of the amendment is to address exercising the final 6-year renewal option and amends the Fee Payment Schedule to County. Termination of the Agreement is extended through April 8, 2027.
10/21/2020 Approved	C-30-21-008-X-00	Commercial Management Concession Agreement (CMCA) – Delegation of Authority FY20 Annual Report: Pursuant to the Resolution dated March 21, 2018 (Delegation to the Director to Execute CMCA #C 30-18-016-M-00) the Director executed 13 agreements which

		generated revenues of \$19,681.71 for FY20. The revenues were deposited in the operation and enhancement fund for operating and enhancing facilities and services at existing county parks.
10/21/2020 Approved	C-30-21-009-X-00	Acceptance of Grant Funds from Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management (DFFM): Approve the receipt of grant funds from DFFM for the Invasive Plant Grant Program in the amount not-to-exceed \$87,000. The \$87,000 will be split equally between 24 months and will be used to procure a service provider to treat and remove invasive plant species within targeted areas at Spur Cross Ranch Conservation Area. This provides a benefit in our county by removing invasive plant species which pose a threat of wildfire, alter watersheds, degrade wildlife habitat, out-compete natural vegetation, and destroy the natural beauty of the Arizona landscape.
10/21/2020 Approved	C-06-21-246-X-00	Donations: Accept the monthly donation report from Parks and Recreation for September 2020 for a cash value of \$433.41.

Administration

Contract Administration:

- Six Flags Hurricane Harbor: The original agreement provided for the development of two parcels in three phases. Parcel 1 (Phase I, II) was the main waterpark and Parcel 2 (Phase III) contained approximately twelve acres not connected to the waterpark, as it was separated by a four-acre parcel and a County Park road. Parcel 2 (Phase III) remains undeveloped.

In 2018, Parks issued a Notification of Failure to Develop which provided an option to offer a 3.5+/- acre parcel in exchange for returning the 16+/- acre parcel for future development by the department. Earlier this year, Parks re-approached Six Flags and they consented to the exchange via an amendment to the agreement. Phase I and II have been completed to the County's satisfaction. Phase III (Parcel 2) proposed development is directly across from the main entrance to the waterpark. Although it is still separated by a County Park road, its proximity to the entry of the waterpark is a better alternative for the concessionaire for their employee parking and to allow additional guest parking. For the last three years, the concessionaire has been issued a Special Use Permit to use Parcel 2 for their employee parking.

This transfer of land benefits the concessionaire as well as the County as the parcel can now be solicited for other concession recreational opportunities.

Financial/Budget Status FY2020-2021: (through September close)

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	\$861,313.00	\$861,313.00	\$0.00			
D300	Parks and Recreation	200	Coronavirus Relief Fund	NRNP	Non Recurring Non Project	\$46,451.00	\$48,904.00	(\$2,453.00)	\$46,451.00	\$46,474.00	(\$23.00)
D300	Parks and Recreation	225	Spur Cross Ranch Conservation	NRNP	Non Recurring Non Project	\$25,000.00	\$25,000.00	\$0.00			
D300	Parks and Recreation	225	Spur Cross Ranch Conservation	OPER	Operating	\$308,476.00	\$278,913.00	\$29,563.00	\$323,200.00	\$331,619.00	(\$8,419.00)
D300	Parks and Recreation	230	Parks and Recreation Grants	NRNP	Non Recurring Non Project	\$45,438.00	\$45,438.00	\$0.00	\$45,438.00	\$45,438.00	\$0.00
D300	Parks and Recreation	230	Parks and Recreation Grants	OPER	Operating					\$34.00	(\$34.00)
D300	Parks and Recreation	239	Parks Souvenir	OPER	Operating	\$436,088.00	\$324,872.00	\$111,216.00	\$436,088.00	\$324,872.00	\$111,216.00
D300	Parks and Recreation	240	Lake Pleasant Recreation Services	NRNP	Non Recurring Non Project	\$895,000.00	\$165,985.00	\$729,015.00			
D300	Parks and Recreation	240	Lake Pleasant Recreation Services	OPER	Operating	\$3,614,456.00	\$3,614,400.00	\$56.00	\$3,614,456.00	\$3,996,875.00	(\$382,419.00)
D300	Parks and Recreation	241	Parks Enhancement	NRNP	Non Recurring Non Project	\$1,685,000.00	\$1,021,200.00	\$663,800.00	\$2,594.00	\$2,594.00	\$0.00
D300	Parks and Recreation	241	Parks Enhancement	OPER	Operating	\$6,624,881.00	\$6,624,881.00	\$0.00	\$6,624,881.00	\$6,673,407.00	(\$48,526.00)
D300	Parks and Recreation	243	Parks Donations	OPER	Operating	\$30,490.00	\$28,339.00	\$2,151.00	\$50,174.00	\$47,798.00	\$2,376.00
D300	Parks and Recreation	243	Parks Donations	WMD3	Daisy Mountain And Trails	\$135,000.00	\$135,000.00	\$0.00			

*negative for revenue is GOOD

Department		Fund		Appropriation Unit		Structural Balance OPERATING			Forecasted ROLL TO FUND BALANCE		
Code	Name	Code	Name	Code	Name	Revenue Budget	Forecast Expenditures	Balance	Revenue Forecast	Forecast Expenditures	ROLL
D300	Parks and Recreation	100	General	OPER	Operating						
D300	Parks and Recreation	200	Coronavirus Relief Fund	NRNP	Non Recurring Non Project						
D300	Parks and Recreation	225	Spur Cross Ranch Conservation	NRNP	Non Recurring Non Project						
D300	Parks and Recreation	225	Spur Cross Ranch Conservation	OPER	Operating	\$323,200.00	\$278,913.00	\$44,287.00	\$331,619.00	\$278,913.00	\$52,706.00
D300	Parks and Recreation	230	Parks and Recreation Grants	NRNP	Non Recurring Non Project						
D300	Parks and Recreation	230	Parks and Recreation Grants	OPER	Operating	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00			
D300	Parks and Recreation	239	Parks Souvenir	OPER	Operating	\$436,088.00	\$324,872.00	\$111,216.00	\$324,872.00	\$324,872.00	\$0.00
D300	Parks and Recreation	240	Lake Pleasant Recreation Services	NRNP	Non Recurring Non Project						
D300	Parks and Recreation	240	Lake Pleasant Recreation Services	OPER	Operating	\$3,614,456.00	\$3,614,400.00	\$56.00	\$3,996,875.00	\$3,614,400.00	\$382,475.00
D300	Parks and Recreation	241	Parks Enhancement	NRNP	Non Recurring Non Project						
D300	Parks and Recreation	241	Parks Enhancement	OPER	Operating	\$6,624,881.00	\$6,624,881.00	\$0.00	\$6,673,407.00	\$6,624,881.00	\$48,526.00
D300	Parks and Recreation	243	Parks Donations	OPER	Operating	\$50,174.00	\$28,339.00	\$21,835.00	\$47,798.00	\$28,339.00	\$19,459.00
D300	Parks and Recreation	243	Parks Donations	WMD3	Daisy Mountain And Trails						

Point of Sale System (POS): Parks has been awarded a new contract for Point-of-Sale and Campground Reservation services. A Request for Proposals was released in November 2019 with the contract award going to US eDirect. The system is currently being built with an anticipated go-live date of 12/15/20. The new system offers enhanced camping reservation and reporting options, a robust inventory and point-of-sale process, improved annual pass functionality, and overall stronger reporting capabilities.

Human Resources

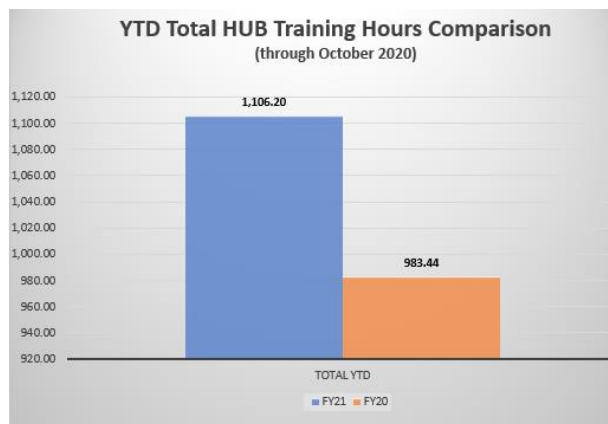
- **Welcome**
 - Max DelRio – Contact Station Assistant Temp, Lake Pleasant 9/16/2020
- **Farewells**
 - Adam Kanya – Navigational Aid, Lake Pleasant 9/16/20
 - Sal Ruvalcaba – Park Maintenance Worker, Lake Pleasant (transferred to DOT) 9/21/20
 - Patty Sanford – Finance Support Supervisor, HQ, Retired on 10/10/20
 - Max DelRio – Contact Station Assistant Temp, Lake Pleasant 10/14/20
 - Kevin Bishop – Park Maintenance Worker, Lake Pleasant 10/19/20
- **Vacancies**
 - Water Specialist – Reposted, list received
 - Parks Planner – Posting closed, list received
 - Finance Support Supervisor – Currently posted
 - Park Maintenance Worker (2), Lake Pleasant – Interviews conducted
 - Navigational Aide, Lake Pleasant – Interviews conducted
 - Contact Station Assistants (Temp), Lake Pleasant & McDowell – Currently posted
 - Interpretive Ranger, McDowell – Job description under review and updates
 - Office Assistant, Estrella – on hold
 - Trails Specialist – on hold
 - Parks Education Supervisor, DOC – On hold
 - Park Maintenance Worker, DOC – On hold
 - Interpretive Ranger, DOC – On hold

Training Hours (Staff and Core Volunteers)

TheHUB Training					
Safety	July	August	Sept	Oct	Total YTD
FY21	542.97	144.78	113.51	144.04	945.30
FY20	165.95	225.92	73.05	285.34	750.26
Other*	July	August	Sept	Oct	Total YTD
FY21	21.28	18.29	36.96	84.37	160.90
FY20	37.50	92.18	48.79	54.71	233.18

* Other (new employee orientation, policy review, diversity, job skills, professional development, personal development)

Safety Tailgates (conduct by supervisors)				
FY21	July	Aug	Sept	Oct
Sessions	6	6	6	6
Attendance	30	30	40	38



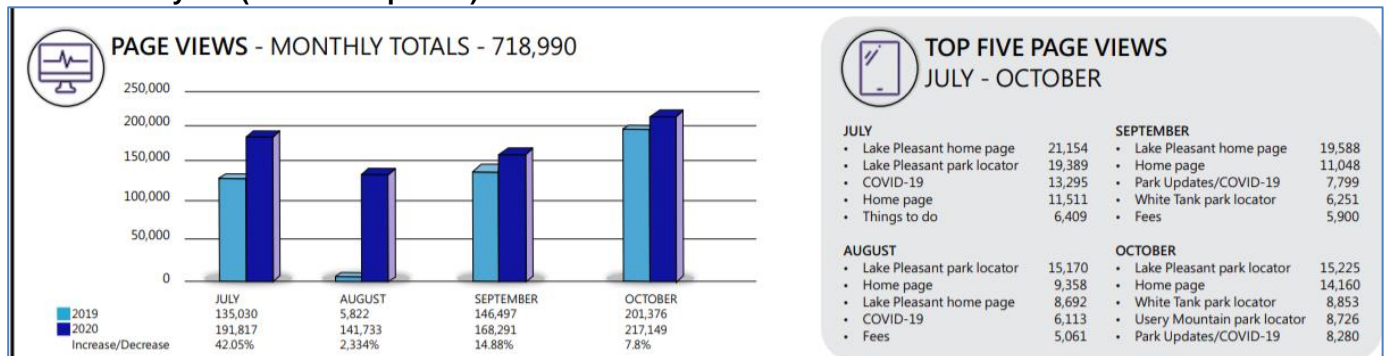
Volunteer Hours (FY21 through October 2020):

TOTAL Volunteer Hours,														
by month	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	YTD Total	Year End Total
FY21 - All Hours	2,779	2,260	2,662	6,599	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	14,300	14,300
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	14,758	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	12,919	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	20,039	99,378

Financial Impact of Volunteers, by Month														
	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	YTD Total	Year End Total
FY21 Financial Impact	\$70,670	\$57,472	\$67,695	\$167,813	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$363,649	\$363,649
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	\$375,302	\$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	\$318,970	\$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	\$483,741	\$2,398,985

Special Days of Service event listings:	Date	Attendance	Hours
White Tank - Reseeding - Juanita	9/1/2020	3	6
Lake - Boy Scout - Clean-Up	9/13/2020	6	18
HRP-Highway Clean-Up	9/19/2020	2	6
Lake - NPLD - Clean-Up	9/26/2020	23	92
HRP-NPLD-Clean-Up	9/26/2020	3	9
Lake- Eagle Scout - Clean-Up	10/17/2020	25	75
Lake - Luke AFB - Trail Maintenance	10/26/2020	33	198

Website Analytics (FY21 first quarter)



Planning and Development Division

Project Management

- The Department Project Manager (PM) has completed the Estrella host site waterline rehabilitation project near the old rodeo arena area. New isolation valves were installed, the corroded galvanized pipe was replaced with sustainable PVC piping, and new electrical pedestals were installed at the sites.
- The Group Campground host site project is moving along at Lake Pleasant. The host site covers have been ordered, the electrical permit has been received, and the septic system and potable water connections have been designed. This project will be completed by the end of the year.
- The PM has received quotes for major park projects including several septic systems and campground electrical renovations at Lake Pleasant. Subsequent inspections of the ET beds have indicated substantial repairs are required to the Desert Outdoor Center, RV Dump Station, and Group Campground beds. Due to the regulatory nature of the ADEQ permitted septic system beds, the beds are now the department's priority and a request to utilize the campground electrical renovation funding has been submitted to the Board of Supervisors for approval. Due to the cost of these improvements, many of these projects will be bid through the County's Procurement office.

Trades Crew

- Department Electricians completed the installation of retrofit LED lighting on the host sites at San Tan Mountain Regional Park. The electricians are systematically making their way through the parks to upgrade and complete the LED lighting improvements that will improve electrical efficiency and reduce long-term maintenance.
- The Trades Crew completed a boulder barrier system at Estrella Mountain Regional Park which prevents vehicles from driving around the closed gates at the entrance to the park to gain unauthorized access.
- The Trades Crew has removed the three electric pedestals, hose bib risers, sewer cleanouts, BBQ grills, and the septic tank access riser at Estrella Mountain Regional Park along the golf course access road. This maintenance project is in preparation for the grand reopening of the Tres Rio Golf Course this month.

Trails Crew

- The Trails Crew is completing the installation of new trail signs and maintenance work on the trails in preparation for the busy hiking season. The trails section is also assisting with a new trailhead kiosk installation at the Maricopa Trail Sun Valley Trailhead.

Maricopa Trail, Sun Circle, and Trail Facilities:

- Agreement preparation/negotiations:
 - City of Phoenix – IGA for Segment 1 Sun Circle Trail was sent back to Phoenix Street Department for review on 10/26/20; Segment 7 is in review by Maricopa County Attorney's Office and Real Estate Department.
 - ADOT – Preparing permit for SR85 crossing Segment 33; waiting on contractor insurance information.
 - AZGFD – Segment 14 license renewal was approved by their Commission on 8/19/20; the draft license is in review by Maricopa County Attorney's Office and Real Estate Department.
 - WAPA (Western Area Power Administration) License applications (four) for Segment 76 submitted 10/28/20.
 - CAP (Central AZ Project) – License application for Segment 76 in process.
 - Avondale – Segment 1 route determination coordination is in process.
 - MCFCD (Flood Control District) – Permits submitted for Segment 27 and 35.
- Maintenance
 - Segment 22 – Sears Fire burned north eight miles of Trail; dragged brush, removed trees, unclogged culvert, and inspected damage 10/19/20.
- Trailheads
 - Segment 27 – Bush Highway – Bureau of Reclamation approved Categorical Exclusion 7/30/20. Construction is scheduled for December 2020 by MCDOT.
 - Segment 11 – Preparing display for a new kiosk at Sun Valley Trailhead.
- Route Determination – Developed alternate routes for Segment 77 Vulture Mountain to Lake Pleasant and Segment 76 White Tank to Vulture Mountain. Parks' management selected primary routes in August 2020. Currently meeting with landowners (Bureau of Land Management, Central AZ Project, Bureaus of Reclamation, and Western Area Power Administration).

Natural Resources

- Fuel Fire Reduction Grant: The Department received a grant for fire fuel reduction from the Maricopa County Department of Emergency Management (MCDEM). The grant was used to hire a contractor to remove dead vegetation from the trail edges (6-10 ft) along a 2.5-mile section of the Metate and Spur Cross trails and the parking lot. The contractors raked, weed whipped, bagged, and removed six trailers full of dead and dry invasive vegetation.

The Department also received a larger \$87,000 grant for an Invasive Species Management Program for the Spur Cross Ranch Conservation Area Restoration Project from the Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management (DFFM). This grant will include 2-years of invasive species treatment in approximately 75-100 acres of the park. The treatment area includes invasive hot spots that occur within the 30-100 ft buffer of the trail edges and riparian areas. The areas were selected to strategically manage invasive species, reduce fire fuel load, and to prevent further spread of invasive species. The project also includes the development of native plant propagation beds which will provide staff with native seed. The seed can be used for planting in areas of invasive species removal, burn areas from recent fires, future restoration projects, and a potential seed collaboration with our partners. The species propagated include the less common species, especially pollinators.

- The Department Natural Resource Specialist continues to work with plant experts from the Midwest and local partners on creating a local Floristic Quality Assessment for Maricopa County. This process utilizes national and regional botanists and plant experts and takes several days to review and assign quality ratings to hundreds of plant species.

Parks Operations Report

Parks Special Use Permits (FY21 YTD):

	FY21	FY20	FY19	FY18	FY17	FY16	FY15	FY14	FY13	FY12
# of SUPs	25	80	101	105	97	117	97	117	77	94
# of Participants	1227	16852	20099	18018	16,960	18,297	18,094			
% of change from Previous Year										
	FY21	FY20	FY19	FY18	FY17	FY16	FY15	FY14	FY13	FY12
# of SUPs	-69%	-21%	-4%	8%	-17%	21%	-17%	52%	-18%	
# of Participants	-93%	-16%	12%	6%	-7%	1%				

Park Visitor Attendance (through October 2020):

- Report found on page 11

Buckeye Hills Regional Park

- Joe Foss shooting range has good public recreational shooting success with regular monthly increases in public visitation and use.

Cave Creek Regional Park

- The Nature Center display layout has been reconfigured to allow for social distancing. Supply and merchandise orders continue to be submitted for the upcoming season.
- Maintenance staff, volunteers, and the interpretive ranger completed the following maintenance projects:
 - Cleared and hauled out about 20 truckloads of brush to reduce wildfire fuel loads around the park facilities and parking lot.
 - Trees around the Nature Center, campground, and roadways have been thinned/pruned/fertilized.
 - The mine closure project is underway, pictures of the individual mines are being taken, an assessment of the mines will be completed and prioritized to determine if some of the work will have to go out for bid.
 - The Nature Center floors have been deep cleaned and buffed-They look amazing!!!!
 - All facilities are being deep cleaned for the upcoming season.
- The staff has been training new Park Host for the season. We have also been working on the POS data for the new system.
- All septic tanks have been pumped for the season.
- Staff collected and planted prickly pear cuttings in the desert gardens at the Amphitheater.
- Trimmed trees, cactus, and shrubs along some of the trails and completed trail maintenance to the Nature Center connector path to the Overton Tail.
- Completed some site visits to mines to determine what repairs are needed.
- Wild at Heart, an Arizona-based raptor rescue organization, released six American Kestrels (falcons) at the Nature Center.
- Cave Creek Trail Ride concessionaire has arrived for the season and will start trail rides on October 31.

Estrella Mountain Regional Park

- The Park Interpretive Ranger continued online programming engagement through Facebook.
- Staff set up game cameras in a wash along the Coldwater trail. Several bobcats have frequently been visiting and providing valuable information about wildlife movement in the park.
- In-person programming started back in October with mixed results for the registration process. Our first bird walk was very successful, with all ten spots filling quickly and everyone attending the program. The other two programs (a sit-down presentation at the ramadas and a guided hike) both had full registrations, however, only a few (1-4) showed up for the program. Staff will continue to advertise and determine what format and programs best suit the visitors' needs and the park's operation mode.
- Estrella Park staff and hosts continue to clean ramadas and picnic areas for customers enjoying a day in the park. Some family gatherings and a wedding party enjoyed the facilities. Reopening and reorganizing the nature center went smoothly with all areas sanitized and the public properly spaced apart.
- Hiking continues to increase with the cooler weather. Several smaller hiking groups are beginning to appear.

Hassayampa River Preserve

- Park staff prepared the Visitor Center's reopening in October.
- The Preserve was recognized at a virtual awards ceremony by the Arizona English Teachers Association with a Community Literacy Award for hosting a Nature Poetry Contest in April.
- The Preserve participated in National Cleanup Day by hosting an Adopt-a-Highway cleanup for our one mile stretch of Hwy 60 bordering the Preserve. Three volunteers from the public, four regular park volunteers, and park staff picked up a total of twenty-nine bags of trash! Boy Scout Troop 299 also continued repairing the Martin gravesite fencing for National Public Lands Day on September 26.
- The Preserve was a virtual partner with the Town of Wickenburg in promoting *Bats and Buzzards on the Bridge*, a wildlife viewing event in Wickenburg. The community was provided with online resources and information highlighting the migrating turkey vultures and seasonal resident Mexican free-tailed bats that can be seen this time of year from the pedestrian bridge crossing the river in Wickenburg. Previous years' events were in-person, but due to COVID, this year everyone was encouraged to go to the Bridge on their own over several weeks when the vultures and bats were most active.
- The Preserve switched to winter hours and resumed being open on Wednesdays. The Visitor Center opened to the public after being closed since April.
- The interpretive ranger resumed programming this month and most programs filled up to a maximum capacity of ten people.
- Returning and new hosts arrived for the season this month. Several new and returning community volunteers roved the trails and worked on special projects.
- Ranger Amber from the Desert Outdoor Center started a mural painting project in the Visitor Center.

Lake Pleasant Regional Park

- Installed eight decorative rock boulder benches around the playground at the Discovery Center.
- Garage doors and an air compressor were installed at the Government Dock and Navigational Aide Boathouse.
- As of September 29, all the septic tanks at Lake Pleasant were pumped as part of the CARES funding due to the spike of attendance due to COVID-19.
- On September 8, the Lake Pleasant Supervisors met with the Central Arizona Water Conservation District/Central Arizona Project and other related agencies to the Lake for a functional exercise discussion on potential emergency water level release scenarios. Further follow-up discussions are scheduled in the coming month.
- On September 20, the park hosted the *16th Annual Dam Good Run* in association with Aravaipa Running to the delight of 198 socially distanced participants with staggered start times throughout the day.
- On September 26, the Lake hosted the National Public Lands Day volunteer cleanup event with 26 volunteers picking up approximately 75 large bags of trash from the shoreline.
- Discovery Center is scheduled to open Fridays and Saturdays, beginning November 6.
- A proposal for bringing back shoreline camping has been submitted for review. The new shoreline camping will be a little different from years past. The campsites will be designated to help ensure less litter, resource damage, and clearly define designated areas for camping access.
- Park hours changed to Winter hours on October 19 to reflect 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily at the Main Entrance and 6 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday-Sunday at the North Entrance.
- Completed road re-grading repairs in the areas of Two Cow Cove, Desert Tortoise Road Spillway, and Sunfish Lane.
- Successful relaunch of interpretive programs during COVID with four programs offered and approximately fifteen attendees at each program (60 participants in total for month).
- Twenty-five Boy Scouts cleaned up the entire Desert Tortoise and Two Cow Road as part of an eagle project.
- Thirty-eight volunteers from Luke Air Force Base came out to help remove and smooth out the rocky Roadrunner Trail.
- Central Arizona Project, Bureau of Reclamation, and other partner agencies successfully performed a functional exercise for the New Waddell Dam and 11 dikes to prepare for a catastrophic event.
- *Castle Creek Triathlon* occurred on October 3, with approximately 150 participants, scheduled at staggered start times to limit capacity at any given time to ten participants socially distanced at all times in any given area.
- *Crown King Scramble* (running marathon) was canceled due to wildfires in the area near the park.

McDowell Mountain Regional Park

- Purchased supplies and constructed the COVID plexiglass screens that are to be installed in the nature center at each park in preparation for our reopening in October.
- There was a major waterline break in the park on September 25. The Trades Crew was able to repair the line, however, the total loss of pressure in the waterline and the equipment's age led to compounded issues with the water pumps. With the Trade's Crew help, we were able to get the pumps back online and water flowing in the park.
- The first SUP event of the season was held with approximately 415 participants. *Javelina Jundred* was successfully executed within COVID guidelines and had no incidents or complaints.
- Nature Center was reopened on October 5. The Group area and ramadas are open for reservation of 50 people or less.
- Hosts have returned to the park for the season, just in time for our unusually busy campground for October. We held a Welcome Host Powwow on 10/20 to welcome back our returning hosts and introduce the new hosts joining us this year.
- The post-fire assessment was completed on October 8 by the Parks Natural Resource Planner, Interpretive Rangers, and the Park Supervisor to evaluate the damage to park flora during the McDowell Fire in August 2020. This data will help make future conservation decisions regarding fire restoration.
- Continued work in Mink's camp: installing shades, clearing areas, and preparing the portable restroom left by a Concessionaire to convert from electrical to solar panels.
- Two large special events were approved by the County's Planning & Development Department and the Parks Department. Events were reformatted into a wave start to spread out participants' arrivals and race times, which allowed the weekend events to run very smoothly and lessened event congestion in the park.

San Tan Mountain Regional Park

- Staff used the tractor to transplant a Palo Verde from near the entry window into the new tortoise habitat. This eliminates a future road obstruction while helping create needed shade for the tortoise burrows.
- San Tan participated in a history scavenger hunt put on by the Town of Queen Creek for their virtual Founders Day celebration. Eight families stopped by the park to read a poster about Mansel Carter to solve a puzzle and get a prize from the Town.
- San Tan had 12 programs with a total of 100 participants. This includes partner programs led by our volunteer biking group and the Master Gardeners.
- The ranger held a 100 Miles Challenge info session at the trailhead and spoke with approximately 30 people.
- Park Staff and the San Tan Valley Master Gardeners continue to improve the Interpretive Trail and recently planted 10 prickly pear cacti and cholla varieties to illustrate the difference between plants.
- The Trades Crew installed light fixtures in the two new park host site Ramada's and around the Visitor Center complex for security. They also upgraded to LED lights in existing poles in the parking lot.

Spur Cross Ranch Conservation Area

- Merchandise and supply orders are being created for the upcoming season.
- The Interpretive Ranger and his weekly volunteers completed the following maintenance projects:
 - Trees and shrubs along Metate and Towhee Trails were pruned.
 - Trees and shrubs were pruned and grasses trimmed on the lower stretch of Dragonfly Trail in anticipation of reopening of connecting Jewel of the Creek Preserve on 9/16.
 - Cabling, posts, and an "Area Closed" sign installed across Boca Grande Wash to prevent off-trail hiking from the Dragonfly Trail.
 - The area around Solar Oasis was cleared of dry grasses for fire prevention. Lily pads and rushes were also removed from the pond perimeter.
 - Barricades and "No Parking" signs were replaced along the entry road in anticipation of the busy season.
- The entry station opened on October 10 and is being manned seven days a week.
- The trails volunteer pruned shrubs & trees along Dragonfly Trail & Jewel of the Creek. They also completed line trimming of dry grasses along Dragonfly Trail and removed protruding rocks on Dragonfly Trail.
- On October 9–16, HMI Landscape Company completed a grant-funded Fuel Reduction Project on the Metate/Spur Cross Loop.

Usery Mountain Regional Park

- Two new Park Hosts arrived in late September. They will be assisting in the campground and helping at the Entry Station.
- The Park Supervisor offered a virtual "Lunch and Learn" series for Usery staff throughout September; lunch provided on-site with an Arizona Parks and Recreation virtual conference session provided on our big screen. Staff occupied their own table, each spaced six feet apart.
- Maintenance staff completed general maintenance (weeds, trimming) to all 75 of our campsites, including digging and installing all-new fire pits/grills to each.
- Maintenance staff completed 15 campsites that still required decomposed granite added to the picnic areas.
- Usery Park had six new Park Host couples and one individual Host return in October. The positions will work at the Entry Station, Nature Center, Archery Range, and Campground. Their assistance is much needed as Usery attendance has begun to increase greatly.
- Ranger Brennan offered one virtual outreach program to a senior living center in Scottsdale; clients could remain in their rooms and participate via phone conference; 20 participants enjoyed his *Crazy Ranger Stories* program.
- Ranger Brennan offered two park ranger programs in October. To be more creative in seeing visitors, he brought a table and materials to the trail and allowed participants to join him at any point during the 1.5-hour timeframe.
- All 17 septic tanks were pumped at Usery Park total.
- Maintenance staff completed all repairs to our Viewing Pond; Arizona Game and Fish were a tremendous help troubleshooting issues. Mesa Community College shared some of their aquatic plants from their popular Cienega Pond for us to add some plant life and assist with aesthetics. Arizona Game and Fish hopes to have it stocked again with topminnow fish by December.
- A small fire started at the Usery Park Playground on October 15. Fortunately, it was spotted early, and the staff was quick to react. Two members of the public also jumped in to assist with buckets of water. The fire smoldered for a couple of days due to very dry mulch, but the staff continued to keep a close eye and water on it. On October 29, Maintenance staff removed all of the burnt mulch and replaced it with extra piles already on hand.
- REI/AZ Outdoor Adventures hosted a small mountain bike ride with eight people in attendance.

White Tank Mountain Regional Park

- Staff prepped the Nature Center for reopening on October 5 by deep cleaning, organizing, and installing signage to encourage COVID-19 public safety procedures.
- After many park host staffing changes throughout the summer, the last park host position was filled this month, just in time to reopen the Willow Campground from its summer closure.
- Maintenance staff installed new keypad locks on the Willow Campground shower doors to ensure that registered campers have exclusive use of these showers.
- Maintenance Worker Ryan traveled to Lake Pleasant to assist with Navigational Aid work and Estrella Park to focus on trimming the many young trees.
- White Tank received a new tractor and staff participated in a tractor training class at the end of the month. With the addition of this equipment, maintenance staff used the new park tractor to clear out old flash-flooding wash debris, strategically place boulders in needed areas around the park, and cleared out old piles of dirt from parking areas that could not be done by hand.
- Six new host couples joined the White Tank team this 2020/2021 fall-spring season.
- The White Tank Sonoran Desert Tortoise was moved inside the Nature Center for the winter to prevent him from hibernating. Cera is slightly underweight, so staying inside this winter will keep him awake so that he continues to eat and maintain a healthy weight. Ranger Justin worked with a park volunteer, Mike, to design and build a new tortoise habitat that will keep Cera happy and allow park visitors to learn about him while on exhibit in the Nature Center.
- Interpretive Ranger programming started back up in October with pre-registration and a maximum of ten participants per program. The Audubon Society morning *Bird Walk* with Joe Ford was the most popular walk with six park patrons attending.
- Deep cleaned the bathrooms that had been closed for the summer.

Maricopa County Park Visitor Attendance Report
 FY21 through November 2020

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	MONTH TO DATE	YEAR TO YEAR	% of Change Month to date
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			
FY19	Jul 18	Aug 18	Sep 18	Oct 18	Nov 18	Dec 18	Jan 19	Feb 19	Mar 19	Apr 19	May 19	Jun 19			
Cave Creek	1,122	911	1,325	4,688									8,046	8,046	32.8%
	363	505	959	4,233	9,450	9,775	13,542	14,572	16,079	11,336	3,145	1552	6,060	85,511	15.2%
	494	533	535	3,697	10,054	10,809	12,813	12,949	17,991	9,709	2,786	658	5,259	83,028	-28.4%
Estrella Park	2,571	3,317	4,696	8,333									18,917	18,917	46.5%
	1,350	1,954	3,571	6,034	9,547	6,841	12,726	11,067	16,449	9,370	5,819	3,687	12,909	88,415	8.8%
	1,824	1,378	3,202	5,458	10,190	6,547	11,754	8,365	15,356	9,840	6,242	3,070	11,862	83,226	-20.3%
McDowell Mtn	2,667	2,275	3,806	10,302									19,050	19,050	8.3%
	1,095	1,407	3,520	11,570	12,574	13,877	17,846	16,006	18,997	13,822	5,654	2,779	17,592	119,147	15.2%
	1,079	1,700	3,105	9,391	13,026	13,441	15,980	14,635	19,255	9,518	3,930	1,798	15,275	106,858	20.6%
San Tan Park	8,080	7,029	11,102	16,676									42,887	42,887	61.3%
	3,941	3,832	6,009	12,801	17,839	16,810	27,717	25,062	33,803	26,313	17,551	9,622	26,583	201,300	-2.0%
	3,518	3,786	5,515	12,393	18,642	18,718	26,054	18,736	27,959	15,598	12,225	6,364	25,212	169,508	-7.1%
Spur Cross	171	121	354	1984									2,630	2,630	117.5%
	113	122	244	730	826	4,208	4,592	4,569	4,508	2,276	563	210	1,209	22,961	-3.7%
	140	111	247	744	1,286	3,256	4,526	2,261	6,172	3,898	817	224	1,242	23,682	-1.0%
Usery Mtn Park	5,981	7,587	9,683	18,705									41,956	41,956	16.3%
	5,562	5,959	8,133	16,411	26,374	23,339	34,431	33,957	44,356	25,954	12,914	8,453	36,065	245,843	-2.5%
	5,519	5,775	7,668	15,711	28,914	27,958	32,925	28,352	41,655	20,986	15,124	7,443	34,673	238,030	-6.2%
White Tank	8,801	7,667	11,991	20,736									49,195	49,195	21.5%
	4,913	5,658	9,810	20,115	31,195	27,762	39,931	40,494	64,224	27,038	16,680	10,640	40,496	298,460	12.2%
	5,666	6,052	8,617	26,767	31,806	30,598	40,333	38,731	58,215	26,260	18,311	7,201	47,102	298,557	30.5%
Hassayampa	855	632	840	1681									4,008	4,008	39.8%
	453	418	591	1405	1,498	971	1,746	2,002	2,321.0	2,477	2072	1294	2,867	17,248	20.5%
	366	367	649	997	1,317	1,151	1,535	1,223	2,847	1,743	1386	929	2,379	14,510	57.4%
Lake Pleasant	101,160	96,366	79,426	58,720									335,672	335,672	38.4%
	90,616	63,458	51,411	37,125	31,095	18,054	32,436	40,902	69,504	75,153	116,342	98,916	242,610	725,012	7.4%
	90,890	52,385	53,848	28,787	31,278	21,794	29,689	29,004	74,331	81,478	79,342	100,981	225,910	673,807	3.2%
DOC	0	-	0	-									0	0	-100.0%
	140	64	381	1,556	1887	1,330	1,622	1,630	1,030	-	-	-	2,141	9,640	16.6%
	27	120	384	1,305	1804	1,057	1,615	1,455	1,660	2,076	969		1,836	12,472	-24.8%
SYSTEM TOTAL	131,408	125,905	123,223	141,825	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	522,361	522,361	40.9%
	109,523	72,207	83,770	105,250	148,317	135,329	177,224	155,711	265,441	181,106	141,132	128,668	370,750	1,703,678	3.2%
	97,539	70,625	87,713	103,371	141,070	132,622	177,383	168,039	228,472	162,507	126,607	114,212	359,248	1,610,160	4.3%