



Maricopa County
 PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT

MEMORANDUM

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Date: November 9, 2016
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/October 2016.

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

Date/Status	Tracking Number	Summary
12/7/16 Scheduled	C-30-17-007-M-00	Proposed Revisions of the Parks Fee Schedule Public Hearing and proposed adoption of fee revisions recommended by Parks Commission on 9/20/16.
12/7/16 Scheduled	TBD	The Nature Conservancy Land Transfer Agreements The four agreements for the lease, gift deed, donation and conservation agreement for Board approval.
11/16/16 Scheduled	C-30-17-009-V-00	One-Time Addition to Fleet Approving the one-time addition of a boat to the Lake Pleasant boat fleet.
11/16/16 Scheduled	C-30-08-034-1-05	Estoppel Certificate re UMA for Wet'N Wild Estoppel certificate for proposed buyer of Wet'N Wild Water Park at Adobe Dam Regional Park.
11/16/16 Scheduled	C-30-12-026-3-01	Termination of UMA with NSHO- Corral West Arena Termination of UMA due to retirement of Concessionaire for management of Arena at Estrella Mountain Regional Park.
11/16/16 Scheduled	C-30-15-004-M-02	Amendment to Monopole UMA with Crown Castle Amendment Two waive an overpayment of fees paid to the County, modifies the existing payment schedule that results in an increase in revenue share)setting a flat fee for additional carriers that will increase 3% each year) and extends the agreement to October 28, 2039.
11/2/16 Approved	C-30-17-024-M-00	New CMCA with Striper Adventures New Agreement for fishing expedition concession at Lake Pleasant Regional Park.
11/2/16 Approved	C-30-17-008-M-00	ROE with The Nature Conservancy for the Hassayampa River Preserve at Vulture Mountains Recreational Area Right of Entry for the County to conduct road widening, earthwork and expansion / improving parking areas at the Nature Center.
10/5/16 Approved	C-30-11-037-3-03	Assignment of CMCA with Arizona Outdoor Fun Assignment of CMCA due to the sale of assets for Jet Ski and various watercraft rentals at Lake Pleasant Regional Park.
10/5/16 Approved	C-30-10-025-3-01	Assignment of UMA with NSHO – Corral West Horse Adventures Assignment of UMA due to retirement of Concessionaire for horseback riding and western cookouts at Estrella Mountain Regional Park.
10/5/16 Approved	C-30-10-022-3-01	Assignment of UMA with NSHO – DBA Cave Creek Trail Rides Assignment of UMA due to retirement of Concessionaire for horseback riding at Cave Creek Regional Park.

Office of the Director continued:

- Jerry Aster, a former Parks Commissioner, passed away in September 2016. Jerry served on the Commission from 1998-2004 and was Chairman during 2001. He will be remembered for his passion and love of the great outdoors. Jerry was a very active hiker and assisted in the development of Cave Creek Regional Park's Trail Master Plan. He spent many hours hiking with staff out on the trails so that he could understand the parks and experience things first hand. It was a great honor to have had Jerry Aster as a part of the Park Commission legacy.
- **Lake Pleasant Discovery Center Grand Opening:**
On October 15, Lake Pleasant Regional Park opened the doors for the *NEW* Discovery Center and hosted the Grand Opening event. In partnership with the Bureau of Reclamation the County worked for many years to bring this incredible facility to reality. It was a labor of love and point of pride for many staff in the department who should be extremely pleased with their efforts to bring the project to fruition and for hosting an exceptional event for over 200 participants. Special thanks to Chairman Branch for his participation in the event and Commissioner Lynch for showing her support at the dedication ceremony.
- **Vulture Mountain:**
Maricopa County Parks and Receptions (MCPR) is working with The Nature Conservancy in finalizing several documents pertaining to Hassayampa River Preserve (HRP): 1) A Gift Deed with Conservation Easement (Deed) along with a Donation Agreement to the County for the existing Nature Center (encompassing 77 acres, a well and specific water rights); 2) A Conservation Easement in favor of TNC as an integral part of the Deed for TNC to preserve and protect in perpetuity the conservation values of the HRP; and 3) A Lease Agreement for the County to manage approximately 789 acres of the HRP as provided in the Vulture Mountains Cooperative Recreation Management Area Master Plan and also to maintain TNC's conservation values and purpose. All of the documents mentioned above are anticipated to be on the Board of Supervisors December 7, 2016 agenda.

The Notice of Realty Action (NORA) was published by the Bureau of Land Management on November 8, 2016. In Summary: "The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has examined and found suitable for classification for lease to the Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department (MCPRD) under the provisions of the Recreation and Public Purposes (R&PP) Act, as amended (43 U.S.C. 869 et seq.), approximately 1,046.24 acres of public land in Maricopa County, Arizona. The MCPRD proposes to use the land for recreation purposes. Related improvements include picnic and camping facilities, restrooms, trailheads, developed day use facilities, and parking." This will allow the County to begin working on the Environmental Assessment, which is the next step in securing the property for future development and management.

- **Paradise Valley Golf Course well update.**
For approximately one month (September 16 through October 17), the well for the Golf Course was not operating. The well lost all pumping capabilities. At the September Commission meeting, authorization was granted to waive two months of water payments to assist the Concessionaire with well repair. Upon initial diagnosis of the problem, it became apparent that there were at least several fairly significant issues with the pumping system. Once the pump and casings were pulled and inspected additional damage was found. Due to timing and cost constraints, many, but not all of the issues were addressed. We are cautiously optimistic that these repairs will suffice for several years; however, we (Parks and the Concessionaire) remain concerned about the long-term viability of the well. During the next year, we will work with the concessionaire to evaluate the long-term viability of the well and pumping system.

Administration

The purpose of the Administrative Division is to provide strategic direction, leadership, administrative and financial support to the Director and employees of the department so they can produce the results necessary to achieve the departmental mission and vision. The following information is provided as a high level overview of the activities of the Administrative Division through October 2016:

Financial/Budget Status:

- Access to the new budget system has been slow to come. Overall, the new system has some process enhancement that will be beneficial for building the FY18 budget, but use of reports and the ability to provide budget information is lagging as of this report.
- The first budget forecast was due on October 31, 2016. The attached document provides a high level look at the year to date budget by fund.

Parks Financial Projections:

- Completion of the first budget forecast for FY17 in the new CGI system was favorable. It appears the Enhancement Fund is projecting at 3% or \$104,688 over budget for revenue. The Lake Fund appears to be slightly down in revenue projections (0.6% or \$16,979) but this can be attributed to budget calendarization issues and how weekends fall within the first three months of the year (October was not closed when the budget submittal was due). All other funds are forecasting at their year-to-date amounts.

Procurement Services:

- The first quarter was exceptionally busy with the Parks preparing for the coming season and a slower ordering process as staff learned the new CGI system.
- As of October 31, 2016, 432 requests for purchases have been processed for FY17.

Accounting Services:

- The new system provided an opportunity for Parks to review our current revenue reporting structure and make some needed enhancements to help in tracking of the various revenue sources. Previously, the various revenue streams were coded in chunks and with universal sub-objects codes used to delineate the specific revenue (i.e. 650-13 could be annual passes and 650-11 could be camping). The new system allows for Department specific coding, providing a stronger reporting structure that is specific to Park's needs.

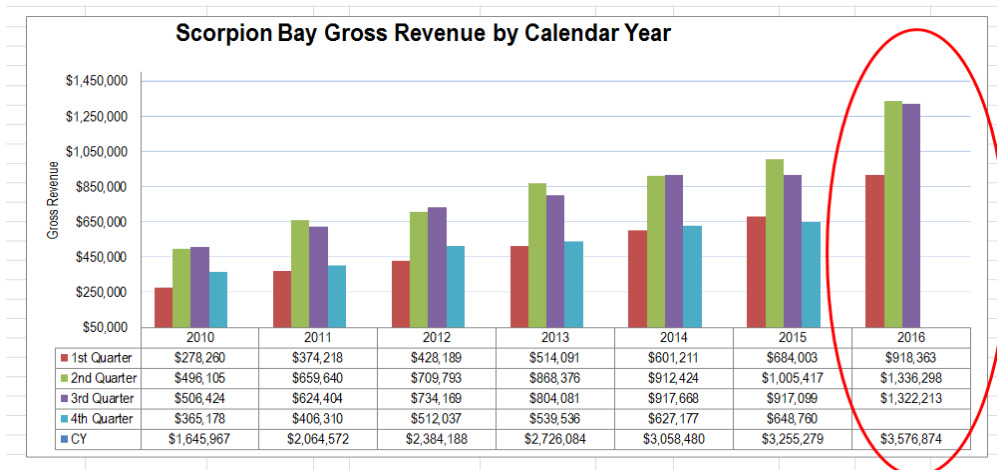
Contracts:

- **Buckeye Hills:**

As previously reported, on September 22, MCPR issued a Request for Expression of Interest for a Public Private Partnership (also known as a LOI) for a non-profit or government agency to take over the Buckeye Hills Shooting Range (General Joe Foss Shooting Complex). MCPR held a mandatory pre-proposal meeting at the site on September 29 and provided a response date of October 20, 2016. There were **no** responses to this LOI. MCPR is working with Arizona Game and Fish for assistance in finding a new manager. MCPR is also working with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) on two options for the parcels of land that house this complex as well as the Sherriff's shooting complex; 1) The removal of the Recreation and Public Purpose restriction on the land patent that will allow parks to offer the management of this facility to a for-profit agency, or 2) BLM may renounce the reversionary interest as the lands are used for a shooting range (potential haz-mat). In the interim, the current manager of the complex has agreed to stay at the facility on a month-to-month basis if Parks cannot find a manager by December 31, 2016 (term date of the existing management agreement).

- **Lake Pleasant:**

Scorpion Bay, under management of Desert Troon Companies, continues to show improved revenue over the previous concessionaire. Improvements for expansion are starting to take shape as they have already enlarged the dock area around the restaurant facilities. Desert Troon will be completing the improvement upon City of Peoria's issuance of the final permit approval.



Information Technology/Facilities:

- Implementation of the Hosted Asset Management System is still pending. There is no go-live date planned at this time.
- Work has begun on installation of IT and phone service to the Hassayampa River Preserve. The Department is currently waiting for confirmation from Century Link on the ability to properly engineer and install upgraded equipment to allow sufficient functionality.

Human Resources:

- Welcome to the following new employees:
 - Javier Ortega – Contact Station Assistant – Estrella (October)
 - Dianna Manasse - Contact Station Assistant – McDowell (October)
 - Elizabeth Miller - Contact Station Assistant – Cave Creek (October)
 - Beatrice Refec - Contact Station Assistant – White Tank (October)
- Transfers:
 - Amber Gore transferred from part-time to full-time Interpretive Ranger Position at the Desert Outdoor Center
- Farewell and best of luck to the following:
 - Tishia Stewart, Interpretive Ranger, San Tan
 - Alex Dos Santos, Park Maintenance, Estrella
 - Charles Brenden, Trades Specialist Supervisor
 - Tony Botwinis, Park Maintenance, Usery
- Open positions and recruitments:
 - Parks and Open Space Planner – Hire Pending
 - Contact Station Assistants (Temporary) All Parks – Recruitments underway
 - Park Maintenance, McDowell – Recruitment underway
 - Park Office Assistant Specialized, San Tan – Hire Pending
 - Park Maintenance Worker, San Tan - Recruitment underway
 - Interpretive Ranger, San Tan - Recruitment underway
 - Park Maintenance Worker, Lake Pleasant – Recruitment underway
 - Interpretive Ranger (Temporary) – Lake and DOC - Recruitment underway
 - Park Supervisor, Hassayampa Preserve, Recruitment underway

Volunteer Program:

- The volunteer “season” was kicked off officially with National Public Lands Day at Lake Pleasant. Two hundred volunteers of all ages came to assist with the large shoreline clean-up event. Volunteers worked by land and water pulling 50 bags of trash, tires, boat parts, and other miscellaneous items. The Southern Arizona Conservation Alliance generously provided bags, gloves, snacks, and drinks for all who helped. Hands On Greater Phoenix lent the use of trash grabber tools for the day as well.
- The Maricopa Trail and Park Foundation participated in an all-day trail training event at Cave Creek. They completed County administered compliance training on the trail standards, as well as other required training courses to serve in the parks and on the Maricopa Trail. They have begun trail maintenance efforts on the trail and will continue recruiting volunteers to maintain the trail.
- The Southern Arizona Conservation Alliance and Hands On Greater Phoenix sponsored the addition of a new Pollinator Garden at Estrella. 30 Volunteers came out to assist in the planting and construction of the new garden on October 22, which was the nationally recognized service event Make A Difference Day.
- FY17 Volunteer Hours

	Jul-16	Aug-16	Sep-16	Oct-16
Total Dept. Hours	2945	3146	4301	5718
Financial Savings	\$69,384	\$74,120	\$101,332	\$134,716
YTD Hours	2945	6091	10392	16110
YTD Savings	\$69,384	\$143,504	\$244,836	\$379,552
Prev. Year Month Total Hours	3739.25	2948.5	4567.95	6827.5
Prev. Year YTD Hours	3739.25	6687.75	11255.7	18083.2
Prev. Year Financial Savings	\$86,264	\$154,286	\$259,669	\$417,179
Number of Volunteers-current month	78	75	280	157

Planning and Development Division

Trades Crew:

- The Trades section has been busy completing the group campground project at Cave Creek Park. Staff installed the water line and hose bibbs, and the RV camping pads. A new campground roadway alignment is having granite placed this week.

Trails Crew:

- The Trails Crew completed tree and vegetation pruning along the trails at McDowell Mountain Regional Park. Branches and brush growing into the trail, as well as storm debris, were removed to provide clear access for trail users.
- The Trails Crew is working on trail maintenance at Usery Park. Tree and vegetation pruning has begun as well as storm damage and erosion repair

Maricopa Trail and Trail Facilities:

- The following trail segments are currently being worked on – 9, 11, 12, 20, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 33, 35 and 78.
- The following portions of the Maricopa Trail are in review by the Arizona State Land Department:
 - Segment 35 – North and south of I-10 on the Tuthill Road alignment.
 - Segment 12 – North of SR303 on Lake Pleasant Road.
 - Segment 11 – East of SR303 on Happy Valley Parkway.

- The following portion is continuing an Environmental Assessment:
 - Segment 22 – Tonto National Forest – Bronco Trailhead to Scottsdale City Limits – 15.5 miles. Tonto National Forest sent comments 10/12/16 and consultant due with final EA 10/28/16.
 - Construction is scheduled to begin in January 2017; this date is dependent on permitting.
- Agreement preparation/negotiations:
 - City of Phoenix – Segment 9 – Approved by the Phoenix City Council and the Water Department Director. Construction will be this winter.
 - City of Scottsdale – Segments 23, 24 25 and 26 – Scottsdale City Council expected approval fall 2016
 - U.S. Bureau of Reclamation – Segment 27 – Formal revised application and plans to be submitted October 2016. The Bureau of Reclamation archeologist has stated we will be required to have a NEPA survey completed on their property and that will delay approval.
 - City of Buckeye – Segment 35 – in review.
 - City of Avondale – Segment 9 and Segment 1 – part of Avondale Master Plan
 - Bureau of Land Management – Submitted plan of proposed route between Estrella Mountain Park and Buckeye Hills Park.
- Maintenance
 - Inspected Segments 78, 13, 14, 15 and 16 Lake Pleasant to Cave Creek.
 - Segment 20 Spur Cross to Bronco Trailhead – Hiked segment in October 2016 with Tonto National Forest Cave Creek Ranger District representatives and Arizona Conservation Corps representative in order to establish scope and guidelines for maintenance. Scheduled hike to layout further re-routes in November. AZCC Camping Crew scheduled for 11/15/16 - 12/7/16.

Parks Operations Report

Cave Creek Regional Park:

- In September, the park hosted 9 interpretive programs with 222 participants attending. The highlighted programs for the month: *Night Scorpion Search* and *Venomous Creatures*.
- In October, the park hosted 17 interpretive programs with 331 attendees. The highlighted programs for the month: *Halloween Howl*, *Stargazing* and *Haunted Hike to the Clay Mine*.
- The park hosted the 5th *Annual Cave Creek Thriller/Thrasher Run* with 363 participants competing in runs from 6 am – midnight. Eight runs were scheduled for the day, which included 50K, 30K, 24K, 11K, and 5K courses. The runners utilized the Maricopa Trail from Lake Pleasant to Cave Creek Park and all the trails within the park.
- A pollinating garden was installed at the Nature Center by an eagle scout.
- Staff is continuing to work on the new campsites completing the roadwork landscaping and installation of the picnic tables and grills.

Desert Outdoor Center:

- DOC was fortunate to hire Amber Gore, who served an ASU internship at the DOC and worked part-time prior to filling the full-time regular interpretive ranger position. With the forthcoming hiring of a part-time ranger, the DOC should be able to double-book some dates presently taken by small school groups. Presently DOC has no more open dates through this school year.

Estrella Mountain Regional Park:

- In September, Estrella Park provided 25 public programs with 375 people in attendance.
- The Estrella Naturalists program had its first family complete their booklets! These guests have been working on becoming Estrella Naturalists since June and this particular family has been driving from east Mesa to complete their programs. They've thoroughly documented their progress in their journals, with pictures and mementos of their adventures. There are several additional families nearing completion as well, with just one or two more experiences to complete.
- An exciting new program at Estrella offered in September was a conservation-themed program called "Use is Wisely". The message focuses on responsible natural resource use. The first program had 25 participants on a Saturday afternoon to learn what they can do to help protect nature.

- Returning this fall, Estrella offered a two-part presentation with the City of Goodyear Library. There was a great turnout and most of the guests were learning about and visiting Estrella Park for the first time.
- Estrella Park was the site for an Aqua Fria High School Cross Country running meet. They invited two additional schools to participate. In total, 56 students ran a course around the 64-acre turf area.
- Park staff and hosts diligently worked on tree trimming in September and October. Monsoon rains promoted high tree and bush growth that needed to be trimmed from roadways and picnic sites.
- In October, Estrella Park conducted 37 public programs with 798 people in attendance.
- *Passport Estrella*, the extremely popular program series had over 100 visitors on the kick off morning. Of these 100+ guests, some were new and some returning from last year's series. Every Saturday, the Passport participants join the park ranger for the scheduled hike until they've completed their challenge by hiking every trail in the park. The hardest level is 14 weeks and involves over 100 miles of hiking! So far, 97 people have registered for the Passport Estrella challenge.
- The *Homeschool Delight!* program is another amazing program series to kick-off in October. This new program has started off strong with 50 kids and adults. The families in the first two sessions are very appreciative of the creative opportunities Parks is providing to them. Given the level of interest, we may continue to offer these programs into the spring.
- The *Halloween Party* and *Ghost Hunt Night Hike* had 200 people join the ranger for an evening of spooky fun and ghouly exercise.
- A beautiful butterfly garden was installed behind the Nature Center in October. Integral in the installation and planning were the Central Arizona Conservation Alliance and the Hands On Greater Phoenix volunteers. This beautiful attraction will offer educational opportunities and provide ecological benefits to Estrella Park.
- On October 2nd, AZ Trail Race ran on the Competitive Track. Nearly 400 runners enjoyed the morning and the beautiful course in the park.
- Race Timers had a *Cactus Flower* run on the park's competitive track on October 15th. Nearly 150 people enjoyed the weather and a run in the desert.
- Race Timers had a foot race on the roads in Estrella Park on Saturday evening October 29th. Nearly 200 people ran the roads and enjoyed the pleasant evening air in the Sonoran Desert.
- The horseback riding concession resumed on October 15th. Corral West sold the business and the new owners have not wasted anytime in offering their services to the Estrella community.
- The Super Playground Complex received additional attention in September and October. The Trades Crew and the park maintenance team continued to address safety concerns and beautification issues around the playground area. Weeds were removed and holes dug to repair old and damaged sprinklers for planter boxes in preparation for new shrubbery.

Lake Pleasant Regional Park:

- Lake Pleasant offered 23 interpretive programs during the month of October to the enjoyment of 542 program participants. The highlights of the month included the *Pleasant Paddlers Sunset* and *Full Moon Paddle*, *Lake Pleasant and the CAP Connection*, and *Stargazing for Everyone*.
- On October 15, the park was pleased to cordially open the doors for the *NEW* Discovery Center Grand Opening event. Over 200 spectators came out to witness the beauty of the center and take in the wonderful activities to include wildlife viewing, arts and crafts, *Fish Casting 101*, listen to songs sung by a cowboy on horseback, gold panning, get a book signed by the author of *Images of America: Lake Pleasant*, and so much more. Special thanks to the various volunteers who offered up their time to lead activities thru organizations such as the US Coast Guard Auxiliary, Cabela's, South by Southwest, Southwest Wildlife, and the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office. An extra special thanks to our special guest speakers representing the Bureau of Reclamation, City of Peoria, Congressman Paul Gosar's Office, the Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Commission, and Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department.
- A group of 30 volunteer scuba divers set out into the waters of Lake Pleasant to locate litter and remove it from the lake. The group removed approximately 250 pounds of trash from the lake.
- The park is currently working with members of the management team, trades, and others to design a new bridge to replace the old floating bridge on the Pipeline Canyon Trail that was washed away due to excessive flooding this summer.

- The Bobcat Day-Use Area is nearing completion for a special renovation project to give the day-use restroom area a “cosmetic facelift” and other necessary repairs.

McDowell Mountain Regional Park:

- In the month of September, 16 interpretive programs were offered at the park with 69 people in attendance. Our last *Summer Night Ride* for 2016 took place on the Pemberton Trailhead area with approximately 100 people participating.
- The SUP (Special Use Permit) event season officially began in September with the *Javelina Jangover*, 318 runners participated plus nearly 100 spectators were in attendance.
- The park hosted 15 interpretive programs in October with 79 people in attendance. The most popular single event of the month was the *Sunset to Full Moon Hike*, which drew 20 people. The interpretive ranger started a new program in October, *Mountain Bike Fun Ride*, which takes place twice a month on Sunday mornings, all skill levels are welcome, 10 people participated during October.
- The October SUP events started with a middle school/high school mountain bike race with approximately 500 total participants and 400+ spectators.
- The 14th *Annual Javelina Jundred* also took place with participants offered the opportunity to compete in either a 100 mile or 100K trail run. Approximately 750 total runners participated plus 500+ spectators in attendance.
- Western Spirit Cycling hosted a guided mountain bike trip (totaling 3 days) at McDowell Park. Approximately 15 people participated with 2 guides. Escape Adventures, Inc. also hosted guided mountain bike tours, twice in October, approximately 15 people participated.
- Specialized Bike Components offered a free bike demo with approximately 200 people showing up to try out the new bike models.
- During the month of October, Park staff participated in the Fountain Hills Leadership Academy, specifically the Environmental Stewardship day by offering a brief presentation regarding the park and all park amenities; 20 students were in attendance

San Tan Mountain Regional Park:

- The park offered five interpretive programs in September totaling 258 participants. In October, the park offered 15 interpretive programs totaling 272 participants.
- September's biggest turnout was for the *Stroll the Harvest Moon* with 100 park guest coming out to the park to take a lovely stroll of our Sonoran Desert. We had 28 first time visitors in the park that night. A bright moon and cool evening temperatures made it a great night. A bonus experience for the hikers was the resident scorpions that showed themselves under the black lights.
- 45 park visitors took part in the Scorpion program along a two mile hike. They were treated to over two dozen live, big, scary scorpions.

Spur Cross Conservation Area:

- The park hosted 6 interpretive programs in September with 25 participants attending.
- In October, the park hosted 18 programs with 210 participants in attendance. The highlighted programs for the month: *Full Moon*, *Herbalism Hike*, and *Elephant Mountain* hikes.

Usery Mountain Regional Park:

- The park offered 11 interpretive programs in September totaling 701 participants. In October, the park offered 18 interpretive programs totaling 862 participants.
- 117 ghosts joined our ghost ranger on our annual *Goofy Ghost Walk!* Families came to the park dressed as ghosts and participated in a quarter-mile hike, a costume contest, and some fun games. The ghosts were treated to snacks and funny ghost stories around a bonfire.
- Pinal County Board of Supervisors stopped by Usery to take a tour of the park. The Maricopa County Parks Director and Park Supervisor answered questions about the master planned design features of Usery as well as daily operation procedures.
- Usery set up a booth at the City of Phoenix Parks and Recreation Public Lands Day at South Mountain. Outdoor agencies from around the valley were on site handing out information about their agencies as well as volunteer opportunities for the upcoming season. A booth was also set up at the City of Apache Junction

Parks and Recreation Community Halloween Event at Prospector Park. Over 300 kids visited the booth showcasing some of the spooky critters found in the Sonoran Desert. The interpretive ranger handed out program schedules of upcoming events and information about the park.

- The park supervisor attended the Interbike Conference on September 21st and was asked to speak on a panel addressing electric mountain bikes and trail access in parks. The goal of the session was to discuss the progress and challenges of eMTBs (electric mountain bikes) from several different agencies' point of view.
- The interpretive ranger attended the AZ Game and Fish Archery Re-Certification Class at Ben Avery. The interpretive ranger teaches the 101 and 202 archery classes each month for the park and is required to maintain the recommended certification.

White Tank Mountain Regional Park:

- In September, the park provided 12 programs, outreaches, and events with a total of 468 attending.
- The popular, *Stargazing for Everyone*, was well attended with 326 people.
- A fun new kids' program offered at White Tank was an Owl Pellet program. It was a piloted program for the park that included a registration process. The kids' activity and the registration process were considered a great success with everyone dissecting the pellets and learning about owls.
- The joint programming with the Library that occurs monthly is stronger than ever. This month's joint program called *Welcome to the Desert* was an introduction program to the park and library offering for new visitors.
- Audubon bird expert, Joe Ford, resumed his bird watching programs after a hiatus for the summer.
- A local preschool asked the ranger to provide an outreach program to teach the students how to become a ranger and community helper by being good stewards and picking up trash.
- In October, the Park provided 20 programs, outreaches, and events with a total of 1,078 in attendance.
- The *Halloween Spook-tacular Walk* surpassed previous years' records with over 600 people. Many volunteers worked many hours setting up stations like the mine entrance, handing out candy and serving the public. Staff has received very positive feedback.
- The ranger attended training with other land managers through the Site Steward program on effective techniques for removing certain types of graffiti from rock art. This will increase our ability to manage our fragile cultural resources. The ranger also attended and assisted at the Lake Pleasant Discovery Center Grand Opening.
- The park's desert tortoise had a doctor's appointment with the veterinarian and was determined to have URTD, a tortoise respiratory disease. The veterinarian requested that he be moved inside the Nature Center for closer care. A new temporary habitat was built and visitors are enjoying seeing him close up. Gil, the resident Gila monster for many years, passed away in October. He was very popular and has entertained hundreds of thousands of visitors and kids in the Nature Center, at schools and outreach programs. Gil will certainly be missed.
- The White Tank Mountains Conservancy (WTMC) held its third training for stewards in the Nature Center's classroom. Sixteen new volunteers are now part of the WTMC.
- A new Contact Station Assistant position was hired for the park's fee collection activities. This position will aid in consistent fee collection at the park's entry station; in the past, there have been gaps due to staffing constraints.
- The well pump has been down since mid-summer. A contract vendor has been working on removing old piping and repairing the casing. It is slated to be back in working order in mid-November. Water has been delivered to maintain the park and the library needs.

Vulture Mountain Recreation Area and Hassayampa River Preserve:

- With an approved budget for FY17, Park staff has been meeting with The Nature Conservancy staff in recent months to finalize the transition of management plans for the Hassayampa River Preserve.
- Representatives from the County's Facilities Department and Department of Transportation have been meeting with park staff to launch Phase One developments at the Hassayampa Preserve. This phase includes the building of a public restroom along with upgrades to the parking lots, electrical, and septic systems. The Facilities Department has offered assistance with Phase One in terms of funding, design and construction.

Appropriated Budget Check - All - REV

Department		Fund		Appropriation Unit		Expenditures			Revenue		
Code	Name	Code	Name	Code	Name	Appropriation	Detail Budget	Variance	ppropriation	Detail Budget	Variance
D300	Parks and Recreation	100	General	NRNP	Non Recurring Non Project	50,000	50,000	0			
D300	Parks and Recreation	100	General	OPER	Operating	874,325	874,325	0			
D300	Parks and Recreation	100	General	PKRR	Parks Restrooms Upgrades	350,000	350,000	0			
D300	Parks and Recreation	225	Spur Cross Ranch Conservation	NRNP	Non Recurring Non Project	163,075	163,075	0	30,837	30,837	0
D300	Parks and Recreation	225	Spur Cross Ranch Conservation	OPER	Operating	272,132	272,132	0	272,132	272,132	0
D300	Parks and Recreation	230	Parks and Recreation Grants	NRNP	Non Recurring Non Project	34,696	34,696	0			
D300	Parks and Recreation	230	Parks and Recreation Grants	OPER	Operating					48,828	-48,828
D300	Parks and Recreation	239	Parks Souvenir	OPER	Operating	396,182	396,182	0	396,183	396,183	0
D300	Parks and Recreation	240	Lake Pleasant Recreation Services	NRNP	Non Recurring Non Project	1,264,809	1,264,809	0	380,233	380,233	0
D300	Parks and Recreation	240	Lake Pleasant Recreation Services	OPER	Operating	2,640,393	2,640,393	0	2,742,031	2,725,052	16,979
D300	Parks and Recreation	241	Parks Enhancement	NRNP	Non Recurring Non Project	1,775,340	1,775,340	0	610,129	610,129	0
D300	Parks and Recreation	241	Parks Enhancement	OPER	Operating	4,893,687	4,893,687	0	4,959,106	5,063,794	-104,688
D300	Parks and Recreation	241	Parks Enhancement	PKRR	Parks Restrooms Upgrades	342,000	341,990	10			
D300	Parks and Recreation	243	Parks Donations	NRNP	Non Recurring Non Project	468,166	468,166	0			
D300	Parks and Recreation	243	Parks Donations	OPER	Operating	25,404	25,404	0	25,404	28,003	-2,599