

# Maricopa County PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT

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# **MEMORANDUM**

Date: August 10, 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 May, June and July 2016.

# From the Office of the Director

• In March, the Board of Supervisors approved the Cooperative Agreement with The Nature Conservancy (TNC) for the Hassayampa River Preserve. As previously reported, this agreement outlines the requirements for 1) the development of a master plan; 2) TNC will transfer a portion of land to the County for a visitor center; 3) the County encumbering the visitor center parcel with a conservation easement in favor of TNC; and 4) responsibilities of each party including management and development by Parks.

In furtherance of that effort, Parks had developed the following documents for the Preserve:

- 1. Master Plan
- 2. Operations Plan
- 3. Conservation Plan
- 4. Trails Plan

In addition, TNC has drafted and parks has reviewed:

- 1. Gift Deed
- 2. Donation Agreement
- 3. Lease Agreement
- 4. Conservation Easement

A joint meeting is scheduled for September 12<sup>th</sup> to finalize the documents in preparation for signature by the TNC Board and Maricopa County Board of Supervisors.

Adobe Dam Regional Park – Legacy Sports update: The feasibility study is ongoing. The
interim results continue to be positive and enhancements have been made to the project
reinforcing the revenue numbers.

In July, staff met with the Flood Control District (District) to review the new plan. It was a very favorable meeting that gave the developers additional insight to the construction process and also provided safety awareness of the Dam. From early in the design process, Legacy has entertained an additional ingress/egress at the new facility. It was highly recommended by the District to have at least one, if not two additional entries for egress in case of emergency evacuation. Staff researched access route options which resulted in two routes across Arizona State Land Department (ASLD) land and one option for an easement with the District. We provided the Legacy team the available options and arranged a meeting with ASLD which included representatives from the City of Phoenix (Transportation, Utilities and Community Development departments), the County Real Estate Division for the District and MCDOT, along with the Legacy team. Although there is still a lot of research to be done, along with meetings and development of agreements/easements for the roads ahead, it was also a very favorable meeting. Attachment #1 is a schematic that provides the latest draft site layout including additional ingress/egress route options.

Early in August, staff met with the District's Assistant Director along with other key managers. Our main purpose for the meeting was to bring their management staff up to speed with the progress of the project and see if there were any additional concerns. To avoid significant delays in the approval process, the District's team reiterated how important it is to provide final plans based on all studies performed (including, but not limited to the Traffic Impact Study, Emergency Egress Traffic Impact Study) and an Emergency Evacuation Plan at the pre-planning meeting with the ACOE (Army Corps of Engineers).

 The Board of Supervisors has approved the Maricopa Trail Agreement with Maricopa Trail and Park Foundation (MT+PF) that allows our Department to work with the Foundation on outreach efforts, volunteer programs and special events that benefit the public and community in support of our Departmental mission and vision.

# <u>Administration</u>

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:

#### Budget Status (through June 2016 first close):

- Enhancement Fund (241) Agency 305:
  - o Enhancement Fund reported revenue 11% or \$521,596 over the YTD budget of \$4,671,308.
  - Enhancement Fund reported expenditures 9% or \$431,453 <u>under</u> the YTD operating budget of \$4,671,308 for expenditures
- Lake Fund (240) Agency 302:
  - o Lake Fund reported revenues 6% or \$153,802 over the YTD budget of \$2,719,236.
  - Lake Fund reported operating expenditures 14% or \$368,861 under the YTD budget of \$2,719,236.
- Spur Cross Fund (225) Agency 306:
  - o Spur Cross reported revenues 4% or \$9,880 over the YTD budget of \$275,359.
  - Spur Cross reported operating expenditures 3% or \$8,618 under the YTD budget of \$275,359.
- Souvenir Fund (239) Agency 303:
  - Souvenir Fund reported revenues 9% or \$37,747 under the YTD budget of \$362,544.
  - o Souvenir Fund reported operating expenditures 10% or \$38,006 under the YTD budget of \$362,544.
- Donation Fund (243) Agency 304:
  - o Donation Fund reported revenues 46% or \$10,881 over the YTD budget of \$23,277.
  - Donation Fund reported operating expenditures 8% or \$1,947 over the YTD budget of \$23,277.

# Budget Forecast:

• The figures outlined above represent the fund status at the end of the first close. The county allows revenues and expenses for FY16 to continue to be processed and reported through July 2016. Due to conversion of the financial system by the County and effective July 1, 2016, final FY16 revenue and expenditures will not be available until the end of December.

#### Accounting Services:

Most of May and June was spent attending training on the new financial system and preparation for the cutoff between the end of the fiscal year processing in the old vs. new system. All existing accounting codes
have been changed so work was done to ensure the Department's Point of Sale system was updated to
match the new County system reporting requirements.

#### **Procurement Services:**

Most of May and June was spent attending training on the new financial system and preparation for the cut
off between the end of the fiscal year processing in the old vs. new system. Several forms (Purchasing
Cards and Requisitions) were updated to improve effectiveness by making them more user friendly.

#### Contracts:

# Estrella Mountain Regional Park (EMPR):

Staff previously reported the equestrian concessionaire who manages the arena and horseback riding/western cookouts at Estrella informed Parks of their retirement effective May 1, 2016. Staff is considering two possible assignees to the equestrian riding concession that are being presented by the current concessionaire. Parks staff will determine the suitability of any new assignee. Currently, there is a separate management agreement for the Rodeo Arena that would be terminated.

Tres Rios Golf Course has complied with the request to provide certified financial reports for 2013, 2014 and 2015 in advance of the required June 15, 2016, deadline. After a thorough audit of the financials, it was determined that no additional funds are due the County. Therefore, upon recommendation from the Parks Commission, staff submitted for approval by the Board of Supervisors an amendment to their agreement establishing a 12-month payment plan for the 2012 and 2013 late fees of \$12,571.

- Buckeye Hills: In 2012, Parks entered into a Use Management Agreement (UMA) with Helzapoppin Rod and Gun Club, d.b.a. Buckeye Sportsman Club (Club) to manage, operate and improve the public shooting range at Buckeye Hills Regional Park, known as the General Joe Foss Shooting Range. The UMA terminates in December 2016, but does provide a renewal option for up to ten (10) years. Unfortunately, the Club has informed Parks they do not wish to exercise their renewal option and will cease operation of the Range on December 31, 2016. Parks is currently consulting with the Arizona Game and Fish Department with the intent to draft a new Request for Proposals (RFP) to secure another vendor. The RFP will be limited to non-profit or other government entities since the property was patented to Parks by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Lands patented by BLM restrict the authorization of for-profit entities from managing facilities on such lands.
- Lake Pleasant Regional Park: Scorpion Bay Marina provided plans to expand the food service, retail spaces and restrooms of the main marina building currently being used as a restaurant, retail sales and office space. The existing facility consists of approximately 4,907 square feet. The expansion of the building consists of 2,580 square feet of additional kitchen and dining space and an additional storage building. The new building addition will provide an improved dining and recreational experience for visitors to Lake Pleasant.

Attachment #2 is a rendering of these improvements which includes:

- Increasing the dining and bar area to relieve the long wait times currently experienced by customers.
   The exterior patio space is also increased to accommodate more outdoor dining area.
- The existing office space is being demolished to increase the retail sales area to more effectively service boaters, campers and customers visiting the lake. A grab and go food service area is also being added to the retail area to speed up food service.
- The existing restrooms are being renovated to accommodate the increased occupancy and upgrade the customer experience.
- Crown Castle Monopole: As previously reported, due to a merger of carriers at the monopole, Crown Castle overpaid Parks \$37,660.53. In an attempt to negotiate a lesser fee, Parks accepted their offer of \$28,245. We were presented with the option of a fee waiver if we could extend the agreement. In July, we further negotiated with Crown Castle to waive the full \$37,660.53 overpayment and in exchange we modified the existing payment schedule which results in an overall increase in revenues share, setting a flat fee for additional carriers that will increase by 3% each year, and extended the agreement to October 28, 2039. The flat fee for carriers will ascertain the ability to audit the payments every year and not depend on the calculations that are presented by Crown Castle.

In addition, Crown Castle requested consent to upgrade the communications equipment for T-Mobile and AT&T on their Lake Pleasant Tower. This consent was approved by the Board of Supervisors on July 20, 2016.

#### Concession Management Commercial Agreements (CMCA):

New concessions include:

- Arizona Fishing Guides (new owner)
- AZ Water Craft (boat rentals offsite, delivered to Lake)
- Fat Bike, LLC dba Sonoran Adventures (Mountain Biking, Hiking and non-motorized watercraft)

# Human Resources (May and June 2016):

- New Hires Welcome the following new employees:
  - o Shayla Gunn, Park Supervisor, McDowell Mountain Regional Park.
  - o Jason Rodenkirk, Navigational Aide Tech., Lake Pleasant
  - o Mary Hansen, Contact Station Assistant, Temp, Lake Pleasant
  - o Pamela Siegel, Contact Station Assistant, Temp, Lake Pleasant

#### • Transfers:

 Congratulations to Laura Jo Boyd, moving from Contact Station Assistant to Office Assistant Specialized, Lake Pleasant.

#### • Departures – Farewell and best of luck to the following:

- o Charles Fink, Trades Specialist, Trades
- o Erik Aguayo, Park Maintenance, McDowell
- o Leigh Johnson, Planner, HQ
- o Cheryl Kidd, Contact Station Asst., Lake Pleasant

# • Open positions and recruitments:

- Contact Station Assistant, Lake Pending hiring action
- o Interpretive Ranger, DOC Open for recruitment
- o Park Maintenance, McDowell Open for recruitment
- Pay raises were approved for FY17. This required all staff to have a current evaluation on file dated 7/1/2015 or later.
- Position creation is underway for 16 new positions approved in the FY17 budget. Two full-time
  positions are for Hassayampa River Preserve and the rest are temporary staff to assist with revenue
  collection during the busy season.

#### Information Technology:

- Several license renewal items were completed this month including updating security certificates for the Point of Sale and new website.
- Status of current Technology Roadmap for Parks:
  - Implement Hosted Asset Management System: Work is underway to complete this project. Anticipated go-live date is mid to late August, 2016.
  - Establish a Service Level Agreement with OET to define expectations and responsibilities.
     Draft SLA has been completed with Parks returning minor comments to OET for inclusion/response.

# Souvenir Program:

- Completion of full park souvenir inventory has been done at all Parks.
- Report development to capture inventory loss was developed and began in July.
- FY17 product line has been updated and added to the POS

#### Volunteer Program:

- New applications are coming in for the 2016/2017 season and Parks are completing hiring and confirming returners.
- Staff is preparing for the volunteer/host season and planning single days of service opportunities for the Fall/Winter Season. First of the season will be National Public Lands Day on 9/24/16 at Lake Pleasant.
- FY16 Year-End Volunteer Hours:

	Jul-15	Aug-15	Sep-15	Oct-15	Nov-15	Dec-15	Jan-16	Feb-16	Mar-16	Apr-16	May-16	Jun-16
Total Dept. Hours	3739.25	2948.5	4567.95	6827.5	11319.23	11966.43	14240	11897	13273	7852	3976	3919
Financial Savings	\$86,264	\$68,022	\$105,383	\$157,510	\$261,135	\$276,066	\$328,517	\$274,464	\$306,208	\$181,146	\$91,726	\$90,411
YTD Hours	3739.25	6687.75	11255.7	18083.2	29402.43	41368.86	55608.86	67505.86	80778.86	88630.86	92606.86	96525.86
YTD Savings	\$86,264	\$154,286	\$259,669	\$417,179	\$678,314	\$954,380	\$1,282,896	\$1,557,360	\$1,863,568	\$2,044,714	\$2,136,440	\$2,226,852
Prev. Year Month Total Hours	2708	3303.5	3082.75	6101.83	9726	12287	12682	12547.85	13328.57	9876	4899.57	3451
Prev. Year YTD Hours	2708.00	6011.5	9094.25	15196.08	24922.08	37209.08	49891.08	62438.93	75767.5	85643.5	90543.07	93,994.07
Prev. Year Financial Savings	\$61,065	\$74,494	\$69,516.01	\$137,596.27	\$219,321.30	\$ 277,071.85	\$ 285,979.10	\$ 282,954.02	\$ 300,559.25	\$222,703.80	\$110,485.30	\$2,119,566
Number of Volunteers-current month	78	71	414	361	480	235	444	212	232	220	96	111

# Planning and Development (Engineering) Highlights

- Estrella Master Plan: The planning process is complete. The BLM reviewed the draft master plan and determined the plan adheres to R&PP polices and provided an approval letter in March 2016. Staff presented the draft master plan to both Avondale and Goodyear's parks commissions in March 2016. The Board of Supervisor's approved the plan in June 2016.
- Vulture Mountain Update: Staff is working with MCDOT engineers on realignment of Vulture Mine Rd as well as interior park roadway designs. MCDOT has chosen a preferred alignment and is now working on 30% plans.
  - The Notice of Realty Action is showing movement and was sent to the Washington DC office for approval and a 30-day posting. Unfortunately, the DC office has requested additional information before they will process the Notice. The information has been sent and we are awaiting further comment from BLM in DC. The lengthy BLM approval process has impacted the start date of the Environmental Assessment (EA). A completed EA is required before any construction or management activities may begin.
- Hassayampa River Preserve Update: The Board of Supervisors has approved the agreement between the Department and Nature Conservancy. Work on the management plan continues. The Phase I Environmental report has been conducted and a Phase II Environmental review is pending completion. No property transfer can occur until the inspections results are received and any outstanding issues corrected. Staff has been working with the Maricopa Facilities Management Department and their contracted engineering firm to design and construct restroom facilities and associated improvements for the road and overflow parking lot areas. Septic system, water, and electrical systems are currently being evaluated during this design and planning process.
- System Wide: The Department's Project Manager had a busy year for FY2016. Numerous CIP projects were completed throughout the department to increase visitor satisfaction, reduced unplanned downtime, and to increase visitation. The refurbishment of all 75 restrooms (RR's) for all the parks began in January 2014. The project is expected to take four years and cost ~\$4 million. With the help of two "Job Order Contract" (JOC) contractors, staff is working to standardize interior and exterior finishes and hardware improvements throughout the park system. 52 restroom facilities are currently completed with 3 additional units expected to be completed by June 30, 2017 for a total of 55 restrooms. The following projects have been completed as of the end of June:

# Estrella work completed in FY2016:

- Remodel of Restrooms #2, 3, 5, and 7 and restroom #1 demolition
- o Super Playground improvements finalized.
- o Road shoulder erosion, removal of dead trees, and dilapidated park equipment

#### Lake Pleasant/DOC work completed in FY2016:

- Desert Outdoor Center front patio and plaza repair.
- New LED lights for Bajada, Pallet, and Scute Loop restrooms.
- Demolition of existing playground.
- Lower concrete patio, solar gate, and front landscape at the Discovery Center.
- Scute Loop septic rehabilitation work.
- Winch anchor projects at 10 and 4 lane boat ramps.

# San Tan work completed in FY2016:

- o Trees have been installed around the new well station
- New well cover has been install over the well site.
- Sewer connection from host site to septic tank is complete
- Tuff Shed has been installed at Nature Center

# **Usery work completed in FY2016:**

- Remodel of C & D restroom
- o Remodel of Archery restroom, sewer line, and septic
- o Demolition of Restroom #7
- Remodel of Merkel restroom
- Remodel of Restroom #'s 2, 3, and 4

#### Trades Crew:

- Park Electricians are completing a preventative maintenance on all the campground electrical pedestals, septic systems have been pumped and lines water jetted, and ET beds have been cleaned. These activities have reduced unplanned downtime and will increase visitor satisfaction in the seasons to come.
- o In April and May, Trades Staff continued working on the irrigation system repairs, removing trees in decline, and installing parking stops at the recently completed Super Playground parking area.
- Trades Staff completed the remodel of the Usery Park RV dump station to better accommodate the RV's and reduce waiting times by reducing the turn radius and allowing two full lanes to utilize the station.
- Parks Trades Staff are grading the turf areas around the Estrella Park parking lots in preparation for parking lot renovations at the park. Partnering with our Facilities Maintenance Department, PRD staff will be able to replace curbing, crack fill, slurry seal, and re-stripe five parking lot areas in the park.
- Trades Staff assisted with the deep well repairs at White Tank Regional Park. The well required a new pump and a deep cleaning of the well casing into the 900'+ deep well.
- Trades and Trail Crews worked together with Usery Park staff to eliminate a bee hive in the general vicinity of the Vista Trail. The hive was located in a rock outcropping and after the contract vendor sprayed the hive, PRD staff cemented and rocked the hive entrance to reduce future hive activity in the area.
- Trade staff is assisting with the recent storm damage at Estrella Mountain Regional Park. A storm on July 29<sup>th</sup> damaged several trees, electrical service section cabinets, and some roofing material. Staff will temporarily repair the electrical cabinets to re-energize the park and order replacement cabinets.

#### Trails Crew:

- Working with the Arizona Conservation Corps (AZCC) crew, the Trails Crew completed construction of the Desert Rose Trail. Completion of this 3.5 mile section of the Maricopa Trail connects the Competitive Track parking lot to the main Estrella park trail system.
- The Trail Crew also worked with the AZCC crew to reroute 2.0 miles of the Gadsden Trail at Estrella Park, bringing this section up to Maricopa trail standards and making the trail safer for all users.
- Working with AZCC, the Trails Crew finished repairs on 2.0 miles for the Mesquite Trail in White Tank Park. The crew reconstructed drains and dips, realigned short sections of the trail to make it safer and more sustainable.

# 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.
- o The following portion is continuing an Environmental Assessment:
  - Segment 22 Tonto National Forest Bronco Trailhead to Scottsdale City Limits 15.5 miles.
    - MCDOT has developed 90% plans for a bridge over Sycamore Creek
    - The schedule reflects an August 2016 completion.
    - We are planning to start construction in October 2016; this date is dependent on permitting.
- The following portions of the Maricopa Trail were submitted to the Arizona State Land Department for acquisition on 7/27/2016:
  - 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.

- Construction Progress:
  - Segment 9 Estrella Park Connecting Trail from the Competitive Track and the Gadsen Trail reroute – 4 miles – Construction completed June 2016.
  - Segment 9 Tres Rios 0.5 miles waiting for City of Phoenix approval expected construction summer 2016.
  - Segment 12 Central Arizona Project Waddell Canal 5.7 miles SR303 to SR74 Construction completed May 2016.
  - Segment 35 Verrado 3 miles expected construction winter 2016.
- Agreement preparation/negotiations:
  - City of Scottsdale Segments 23, 24 25 and 26 in review, expected approval fall 2016
  - City of Buckeye Segment 35 in review

# **Park Operations Report**

# Cave Creek Regional Park:

- In May, the park hosted ten interpretive programs with 128 participants attending, which included 28 repeat attendees. The highlighted programs for the month: *Full Moon Hike* with 37 attendee and *Feeding Frenzy* with 31 attendees.
- In June, the park hosted seven interpretive programs with 89 participants attending, with 32 repeat attendees. The highlighted program for the month: *Scorpion Hunt* with 28 attendees.
- In July, the park hosted six interpretive programs with 66 participants attending. The highlighted programs for the month: *Clay Mine Adventure* with 32 attendees and *Feeding Frenzy* with 21 attendees.
- Staff has completed the flagging and layout of the 11 new campsites that will be constructed before the new season starts. The Nature Center souvenir and interpretive areas will have a new look this season with staff busy refurbishing old displays, in addition to some new displays.

#### Desert Outdoor Center:

• Desert Outdoor Center just completed its 12<sup>th</sup> aquatics camp co-sponsored with Grand Canyon Council of Boy Scouts of America. This year, the 4-week day camp hosted 196 campers, awarded 535 merit badges, and was accomplished with the assistance of 848 volunteer hours.

#### Estrella Mountain Regional Park:

- The Estrella interpretive ranger and volunteers held 29 public programs in May with 337 people in attendance.
- An exciting new program was kicked off in May called the Estrella Naturalist program. The interpretive
  ranger designed this series for families looking to have a well-rounded desert experience. Participants
  choose programs and self-guided activities from 11 different areas of interest at the park to become an
  official Estrella Naturalist. After a successful kick off weekend, there are 23 people working toward their
  Estrella Naturalist status!
- Estrella day-use and ramada rentals remained relatively strong to the middle of May. With the warming temperature, full hook-up campsites were in demand.
- The AZ Saddle Club held a roping and barrel racing event in the rodeo arena in May. There were 25 equestrians in attendance.
- Race Timers held a foot race in May at the Competitive Track for about 100 runners.
- Estrella Park had 56 public programs in June with 953 people in attendance. Most of these programs were outreaches for school groups and several families from these outreaches have already visited the park for programs following their school visit! We also represented parks at the Summer Safety event for Glendale, setting up a booth and telling over 200 guests about Maricopa County Parks and the services we provide.
- Aravaipa Running held their annual summer overnight "Hypnosis Run" event in June. The 173 runners had fun on the park trails while braving the overnight summer temperatures.
- Wetland studies continue in cooperative planning between Goodyear and the MCPRD.

- The interpretive ranger and volunteers held 25 public programs in July with 425 people in attendance. A big success was the new *Fireworks Hike*, where the interpretive ranger hiked up to the viewpoint off of Baseline Trail to watch the fireworks across the valley. Several of the nearby stadiums had great fireworks displays and many guests said that this program will be a new tradition for their families.
- REI Outreach partnered with Estrella Park on a river clean up. The service project was followed by a
  presentation on Estrella Park and the County Parks system for the new REI employees. The cleanup group
  was able to remove 25 tires and two truckloads of bagged trash. It is under consideration to look into using
  the tires for a recycled rubber art project.

#### Lake Pleasant Regional Park:

- Lake Pleasant offered 25 interpretive programs during the months of May and June to the enjoyment of 496 program participants. The highlights of the months included the Family Fishing Fun Clinic, Sunset & Full Moon Hike, and Hike into a Desert Forest.
- The Lake Pleasant Interpretive Ranger assisted the Desert Outdoor Center for 12 days with the Boy Scout Camp providing archery instruction.
- Memorial Weekend at Lake Pleasant was another very busy weekend for park staff and park patrons. So much so, the park had to perform a complete closure for several hours on both Saturday and Sunday for the first time in the park's history. Higher than expected water levels (creating less available shoreline) and increased park attendance were the contributing factors for the closure. The park also had to enact another closure on the evening of July 3<sup>rd</sup>, for the fireworks show. Special thanks to the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office, Maricopa Department of Transportation (including the REACT team), Arizona Department of Transportation, Peoria Police Department, Pleasant Harbor Marina/Maricopa Water District, and the amazing County park staff, for their efforts to increase awareness about the closures and efforts executing/educating the public about the closure plans.
- The Maricopa County Sheriff's Office chain gang has been out on six occasions over the past two months
  performing various services around the park to include cleaning up shoreline areas within Sunset Cove and
  along Castle Hot Springs Road. In addition, they have provided much needed support trimming vegetation
  along the guard rails of South Park Road and Castle Creek Drive.
- The Prickly Pedal race will be entering its second season next year. The course will be starting from downtown Cave Creek and finishing at Lake Pleasant Regional Park. The date for the event will take place on Saturday, January 21. For more information, please visit the website at <a href="https://www.pricklypedal.com">www.pricklypedal.com</a>.
- Progress is being made at the Agua Fria Conservation Area. The evapotranspiration (ET) bed has been
  installed in preparations for the soon to be established entry station and park host sites. A completion date
  has yet to be established for this part of the project due to permits and other items of need associated with
  the construction efforts.
- The Discovery Center opened to the public on July 22. Patrons have expressed shock and awe with the beauty of the building and fantastic interpretive exhibits on display. The center will be available Friday thru Monday from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. The park is planning a Grand Opening event on Saturday, October 15, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. please come out and join us for a day of fun.

# McDowell Mountain Regional Park

- In the month of May, 13 interpretive programs were offered at the park with 62 people in attendance. The most popular single event of the month was the *Reptile Feeding* program which drew 35 people.
- Our first 2016 Summer Night Ride took place on the Pemberton Trail, with approximately 120 people participated. One special event took place during the month of May, the Adrenaline Night Run, with approximately 300 runners participated plus nearly 75 spectators were in attendance.
- In the month of June 2016, 12 interpretive programs were offered at the park with 40 people in attendance. The most popular single event of the month was the *Scorpion Night Hike* which drew 18 people.
- The park had one *Night Ride* with approximately 150 people participating.
- Park staff completed re-painting the outside of the Visitor Center and completed installation of a new Visitor Center sign.
- The park received equipment from Arizona Game & Fish Department to begin offering archery programs. Two staff members have completed the required instructor training and several other volunteers are set to attend upcoming trainings. Public programs will begin this fall.

- In the month of July, 11 interpretive programs were offered at the park with 30 people in attendance. The most popular single event of the month was the *Night Hike* which drew 21 people.
- Our Interpretive Ranger joined forces with the Fountain Hills Library (Reading Program) during the month
  of July to offer a Sonoran Scavenger Hunt Program. Youth were encouraged to pick up their "treasure
  map" at the library and make their way to MMRP (Visitor Center) to complete certain tasks.
- Two Night Ride programs took place during the month of July; one took place at the Competitive Track with approximately 100 participants. The other took place on Pemberton Trail with close to 200 participants, which also included over 30 youth!
- The park participated in the Ragnar Gear Up event which took place at the REI Co-Op store in Paradise Valley. Park staff provided park information, maps, answered questions, etc. Over 100 people were in attendance.

#### San Tan Mountain Regional Park:

- During the month of May, June and July, our Interpretive Ranger and volunteers conducted 43 wonderful interpretive programs from "Animal Spotting" to "Movies' in the Park". These programs had over a 1,000 park patrons participate.
- The July "All About Scorpions" class had over 50 attendees and was followed up that evening with a scorpion hunt with over 200 park guest. The hunt is so popular it had to be split into two groups.
- Park maintenance staff and volunteers have completed 54 hours of trail work throughout the park and 34 hours of fence repairs for the months of May, June and July.

#### Spur Cross Ranch Conservation Area:

- The Park hosted 10 interpretive programs in May with 136 participants attending and six docent led program with 51 attendees. The highlighted programs for the month: *Stargazing* with 46 attendees and *Full Moon Hike* with 42 attendees.
- The Park hosted eight interpretive programs in June with 94 participants attending. The highlighted programs for the month: *Moonlight Hike* 34 attendees and *Life on the Creek* with 23 attendees.
- The Park hosted six interpretive programs in July with 97 participants attending. The highlighted programs for the month: *Full Moon Hike* 29 attendees and *Fruits of the Desert* with 26 attendees.
- Community Volunteers have completed 84 hours of general trail maintenance in the last three months with oversight and help of the interpretive ranger.

#### Usery Mountain Regional Park:

- Usery Mountain Regional Park offered 14 interpretive ranger programs in May totaling 649 participants. In June, the park offered 16 interpretive ranger programs totaling 565 participants, and 12 programs in July totaling 434 participants.
- Our popular Scorpion Hunt program kicked off again this summer and is averaging 112 participants per class. Hikers gather with the ranger for a one mile night hike adventure to see how many scorpions they can locate on the trail with their black lights.
- The Usery Mountain Archers are currently hosting a Thursday night Archery league from May through August. The league is held every Thursday night at 7pm and is open to all ages.
- The park teamed up with a local bike shop to offer a *Summer Night Ride Series* for all ages. Riders use headlamps and ride the trails in the evening when the weather is cooler. The bike shop provides free snacks to participants after the ride.
- Restroom renovations were completed in the Buckhorn Campground on restrooms #2, #3, and #4. Renovations included new tile, paint, new fixtures, and plumbing upgrades.
- New water hose towers were added to the dump station in the Buckhorn Campground. The hose on the new towers are elevated (not lying on the ground) which will prevent damages to the hose and will provide better access for larger RVs.
- The Park Supervisor attended archery training through AZG&F (Arizona Game and Fish Department) to become a certified Basic Archery Instructor (BAI).

# White Tank Mountain Regional Park:

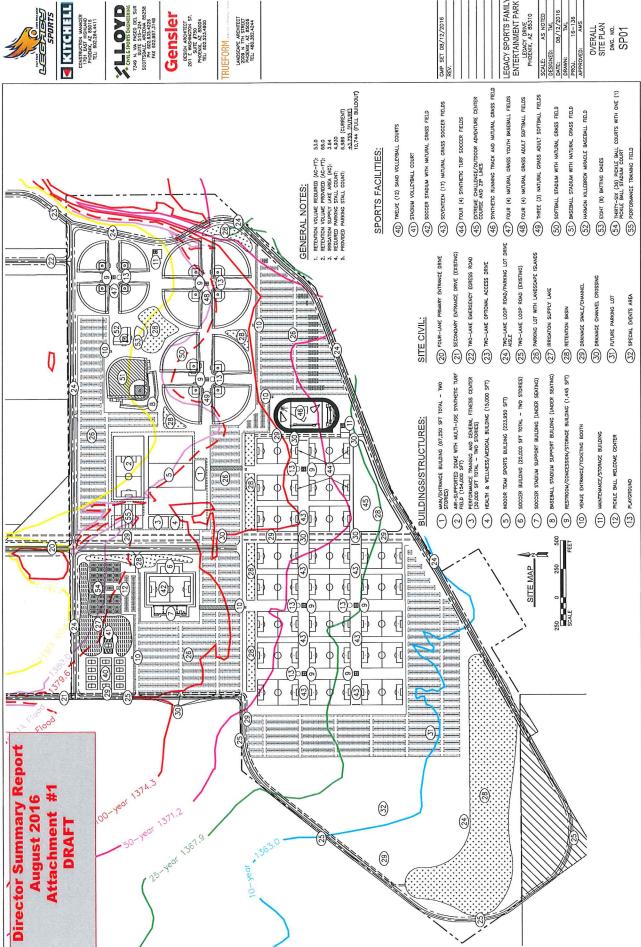
- The interpretive ranger and volunteers provided 20 programs, outreaches and events in May with 462 visitors attending.
- The White Tank interpretive ranger and park supervisor attended an informative Buffelgrass Management training in Tucson sponsored by the Central AZ Conservation Alliance on May 12<sup>th</sup>. Staff will utilize this knowledge to be more effective in removing invasive species to protect the park's natural resources.
- Park staff upgraded the exhibits in the Nature Center with a slat wall and hung the donated taxidermy animals for a fresh, updated, improved and appealing appearance. Next steps are to refresh the educational information inside the display cases.
- The interpretive ranger and volunteers provided 14 programs, outreaches, and events in June with 452 visitors attending.
- The Agriculture Literacy Educators rented the classroom and Nature Center for an evening in June. Fifty
  educators from around the United Stated staying at the Wigwam Resort enjoyed a nice dinner and social at
  the park.
- The interpretive ranger and volunteers provided 14 programs, outreaches, and events in July with 350 visitors attending. *Desert Bingo* and *You Can Cook with the Sun!* were new successful programs this month.
- New employees at the REI Distribution Center removed buffelgrass and fountain grass behind the pond during two separate events. It was a great project of community outreach, invasive removal, education and connecting people with nature. Everyone enjoyed it despite the heat. We hope to continue to work together with them in the future, including some Leave No Trace programs.
- The White Tank Mountain Conservancy group provided a tour for the new manager of the Wigwam Resort around White Tank Park on July 6<sup>th</sup>. The Wigwam Resort has always been a great supporter of both White Tank and Estrella parks and park staff hopes to do more with them in the future.

#### Vulture Mountains Recreation Area:

• The R&PP Environmental Assessment for the proposed developed areas in the Vulture Mountains Recreation Area continues to proceed and is now in the Washington D.C. office.

#### Hassayampa River Preserve:

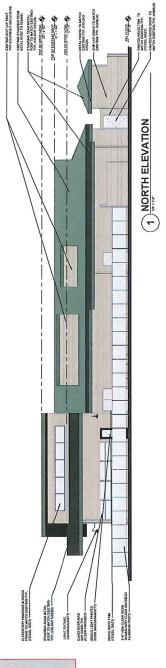
- Park staff and other county departments such as legal and real estate are working with TNC staff to finalize drafts of the legal documents necessary for the partnership to proceed.
- With an approved budget for FY17, Park staff has been meeting with TNC staff in recent months to finalize the transition of management plans for the Hassayampa River Preserve.
- The Westside Regional Superintendent earned a certification to conduct and participate in Western Yellow-billed Cuckoo surveys through the AZG&F and Audubon Arizona. Yellow-billed Cuckoos nest and breed along the Hassayampa River in the Preserve and the ADOT Rest Area. The Superintendent has participated in some surveys since the training in June.

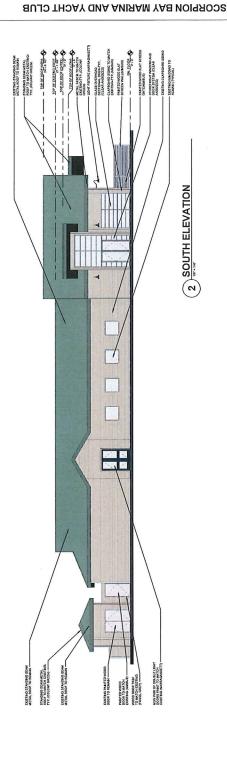


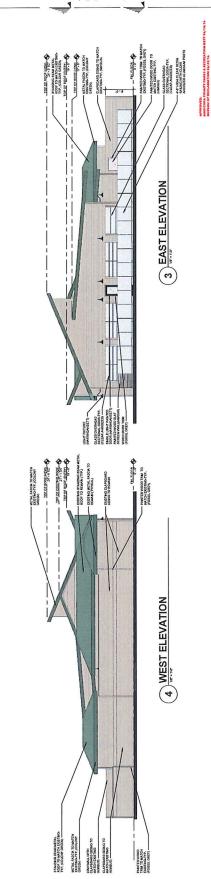
LEGACY SPORTS FAMILY
ENTERTAINMENT PARK
LEGACY DRIVE
PHOENIX, AZ 85310

OVERALL SITE PLAN DWG. NO.

**Director Summary Report** Attachment #2 August 2016 DRAFT







LUBOLOGUESE Oliberapion Bay Restaurant



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10310 KEL DENIZZETA KOAD MORRISTOWN, AZ

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