



Maricopa County
 PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT

MEMORANDUM

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Date: July 28, 2017
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 2017**.

From the Office of the Director

Board of Supervisors Agenda Items:

Date/Status	Tracking Number	Summary
6/7/2017 Approved	C-30-15-009-G-01	APPROPRIATION ADJUSTMENT FOR PARKS & RECREATION GRANT: Approve an increase in the appropriated expenditure budget for Parks Grants Fund in the amount of \$25,000. The appropriation adjustment is necessary as the spending in FY17 will exceed the budgeted expenditure authority.
6/7/2017 Approved	C-30-17-027-2-00	INCREASE TO REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE AUTHORITY: Approve an appropriation adjustment increasing the FY17 Parks Donation Fund revenue budget by \$40,000 to reflect additional revenue and an appropriation adjustment increasing the FY17 Parks Donation Fund expenditure budget by \$40,000.
6/7/2017 Approved	C-30-17-028-M-00	New CMCA with Commercial Divers International, Inc.: Approve a CMCA with Commercial Divers International (CDI) to manage and operate a commercial scuba diving concession at Lake Pleasant Regional Park.

- **Victory Lane Expansion:** Legacy Sports is currently in the funding phase, having passed the basic development tests for business structure, land use and overall preliminary design for the property. As noted in their letter (see Attachment A), they are expecting to have a clear schedule of upcoming event progress within the next two months.
- **Estrella Mountain:** As previously reported, we issued a non-compliance notice in May to Estrella Youth Sports (EYS) for not meeting the requirements for improvements, as dictated by the Use Management Agreement for the Estrella Sports Complex. EYS responded that they have been unable to obtain the funding for the improvements. A Termination Agreement has been drafted for execution by EYS.

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.

Financial/Budget Status:

- The Fiscal Year End close has not occurred as of the deadline for report submission. The following in a brief forecast for anticipated end of year:
 - Donation Fund (F243) is reporting revenue of \$58,559 for FY17. Expenditures were \$40,347.
 - Enhancement Fund (F241) is reporting revenue of \$5,280,891 which is 6.5% over annual projected budget (\$4,959,106). Expenditures are \$4,351,399 or 11% under annual projected budget (4,893,687).
 - Lake Fund (F240) is reporting revenue of \$3,017,814 which is 10% over annual projected budget (\$2,742,031). Expenditures are \$2,518,279 or 4.7% under annual projected budget (\$2,640,393).
 - Spur Cross (F225) is reporting revenue \$277,888 which is 5.8% over annual projected budget (\$272,132). Expenditures are \$264,884 or 2.7% under annual projected budget (\$272,132).
 - Souvenir Fund (F239) is reporting both revenue and expenditures of \$368,456.

Procurement Services:

- FY17 noted a 30% increase in total requests for purchases (total requisitions processed in FY17: 1,163; total requisitions processed in FY16: 892). The increase is due to the new CGI system and purchasing process changes along with reduced P-card purchases.

Accounting Services:

- The Finance Program implemented an accounts receivable process to report and collect past due invoices (greater than 30 days past due). The invoices generally involve special use permits, concessions reimbursement payments, and Desert Outdoor Center payments. Invoices 90 days or longer past due have decreased by 27% with 44 open at this time. Staff continues to work with the school districts to collect overdue payments that occurred with the retirement of staff and summer closures/vacation of district offices.

Contracts:

- **Lake Pleasant:** Desert Troon's Scorpion Bay's store and restaurant is undergoing restoration with anticipation of completion in May. In addition to these improvements they are also adding an additional, Dock E, with new shower/restroom facility and dock cabins.
- **Adobe:** The 500 Club is proceeding with the permit process for the remodel of the existing clubhouse and the new banquet facility through the City of Phoenix (COP). During the course of discussions with the COP and the Flood Control District of Maricopa County we realized there is a 6 foot discrepancy between the Base Flood Elevations (BFE) set by Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the 100-year ponding elevation set by Army Corps of Engineering at Adobe Dam. These elevations impact any the criteria of any development at Adobe. We have been working with the Flood Control District of Maricopa County to assist in a variance for to allow development at the 100-year ponding elevation.

Agreement Extensions: Both Arizona Karting Association, a dirt-track go-kart racing facility and the Phoenix Kart Racing Association, an asphalt go-kart racing facility terms expire March 3, 2019 with no renewal options. These two facilities are located next to each other at Adobe Dam Regional Park. It is expected that when the agreements terminate it will be in the County's best interest to advertise a combination of both facilities into one Invitation to Negotiate (ITN). An extension to the term is necessary to allow enough time to issue the ITN. The ITN may provide options for one concessionaire to manage both properties. The amendments to extend their agreements have been submitted to each respective concessionaire for execution.

- **Paradise Valley Park:** We are in the process of drafting an Invitation to Negotiate (ITN) for Casey at the Bat or Casey's Sports World, located at 3947 W. Union Hills Drive, Phoenix. The ITN is for respondents that are interested in the facility upon the termination of the current UMA with Casey at the Bat. Attachment B is an aerial map of the complex.

Information Technology/Facilities:

- Hassayampa River Preserve: Computers, printers and other peripherals have been ordered and received. Staff awaits completion of IT infrastructure and phone service to proceed with the installation of the computers units.
- OET billing continues to be a concern for Parks. The average monthly telecomm bill is \$19,350.00, an increase of 28% from FY16.
 - The majority of the increase is in the cost of Key System Maintenance (maintenance of telephone systems in remote locations). The average FY16 cost was \$1,530 compared to FY17 cost of \$4,033.
 - Additional cost increases have aided in improved service and reliability with the Frame Relay and Point to Point T1 monthly added in FY17.

Human Resources:

- Performance evaluations were completed for all Parks and Recreation staff to allow for performance raises effective July 3, 2017.
- Welcome to the following new employees:
 - Alicia Irino – Contact Station Assistant, Lake Pleasant
 - Amanda Rothermal - Interpretive Ranger, Estrella
 - Casey Clayborn - Park Maintenance, Estrella
 - Mary Larson - Park Office Assistant Specialized, Hassayampa
 - John Dwyer – Park Maintenance, Hassayampa
- Farewell and best of luck to the following:
 - Raymond Schell - Park Supervisor, White Tank
 - Kristen Cowgill - Contact Station Assistant, Estrella
 - Carlos Zayas - Contact Station Assistant, Lake Pleasant
 - Grady Vonpopering - Park Maintenance Worker, Lake Pleasant
- Open positions and recruitments as of July 1, 2017:
 - Park Supervisor, Desert Outdoor Center - Pending request to recruit.
 - Contact Station Assistant, Utery – Pending request to recruit.
 - Park Maintenance Worker, Lake Pleasant – Pending updates to job description.
 - Contact Station Assistant, Lake – under recruitment, pending interviews.
 - Park Maintenance Supervisor, Lake – under recruitment, pending interviews.

Volunteer Program:

- Although the temperatures were high in June, there were still several groups who came out to assist with Lake Pleasant shoreline trash clean up including a church group of 200 and a group of 40 from Luke Air Force Base.
- FY17 Year-End Volunteer Hours:

	Jul-16	Aug-16	Sep-16	Oct-16	Nov-16	Dec-16	Jan-17	Feb-17	Mar-17	Apr-17	May-17	Jun-17
Total Dept. Hours	2945	3146	5113	6283	9900	10972	13274	11967	13168	9120	4618	5030
Financial Savings	\$69,384	\$74,120	\$120,462	\$148,027	\$233,244	\$258,500	\$312,735	\$281,943	\$310,238	\$214,867	\$108,800	\$118,507
FY17 Hours	2945	6091	11204	17487	27387	38359	51633	63600	76768	85888	90506	95536
FY17 Savings	\$69,384	\$143,504	\$263,966	\$411,994	\$645,238	\$903,738	\$1,216,473	\$1,498,416	\$1,808,654	\$2,023,521	\$2,132,321	\$2,250,828
FY16 Month Total Hours	3739.25	2948.5	4567.95	6827.5	11319.23	11966.43	14240	11897	13273	7852	3976	3919
FY16 Year 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
FY16 Financial 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
# of Volunteers-current month	78	75	502	228	371	218	287	277	384	302	179	215
Current Value-\$23.56												

Planning and Development Division

Planning:

- Staff continues design work with MCDOT and our consultant EPS on the 60% design for the campground, day use, and OHV areas at the Vulture Mountain Recreation Area. BLM will hold their public scoping meeting on July 13th in Wickenburg for the Environmental Assessment. The biggest challenges appear to be with the OHV day use area and we plan to hold a separate workshop in September or October for OHV recreationists to gather additional input.
- The Park and Open Space Planner has been working on the Sun Corridor Trail alignment and will be presenting a session at the Arizona Parks and Recreation Association conference in August.

Trades Crew:

- Trades Crew staff completed the parking lot spaces lay out at Hassayampa River Preserve. Keeping with the rustic theme, staff re-purposed old rail road ties and timbers to identify spaces in the north lot.
- Trades Crew completed the concrete pour of the entry station for the Spur Cross Ranch Conservation Area. The pre-engineered building is being constructed and should be installed in early August.
- Trades Crew staff completed the installation of the rusted steel fascia to the ramadas at White Tank Mountain Regional Park.
- Trades Crew staff continues working on the installation of irrigation lines to the new trees in the park around the super playground at Estrella Mountain Regional Park

Trails Crew:

- The Trails Crew has been meeting with Park and Open Space Planner to complete updates to the Trails Management Manual for the department. Staff expects the first draft to be ready for department review in early July.

Project Management:

- The Department Project Manager completed several key project during May and June:
 - Completed the entry station design at Spur Cross Ranch Conservation Area with the Tuff Shed Company. Installation is expected in August 2017.
 - Completed well and control repairs for the San Tan Mountain Regional Park wellsite.
 - Completed design for the failed electric service section at area 2 at Estrella Mountain Regional Park.
 - Completed the White Tank Mountain Regional Park ramada renovations.

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, and 35.
- 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
 - Segment 33 – Rainbow Valley – BLM land to Estrella Community
- Agreement preparation/negotiations:
 - Arizona Game & Fish – Segment 9 access across the Gila River.
 - Bureau of Land Management – Submitted plan of proposed route between Estrella Mountain Park and Buckeye Hills Park. We are a participating agency and will be part of the team designating trails.
 - Goodyear – Sign maintenance.
 - Queen Creek – Re-route of trail to existing trail systems.
 - Gilbert - Re-route of trail to existing trail systems.
 - Chandler - Re-route of trail to existing trail systems.
- Construction
 - Segment 22 – McDowell Sonoran Preserve to the Bronco Trailhead – Started construction 3/6/17 and it is 80% complete. The contract was suspended on 5/11/17 due to fire danger and 1.3 miles of hard rock trail that requires specialized equipment.

Parks Operations Report

Cave Creek Regional Park:

- In May, the park hosted 18 interpretive programs with 287 participants attending. Three outreach programs were conducted this month: *Birthdays Party Critters*, *Scorpions* and *Critter Talk*.
- The highlighted programs for the month: *Clay Mine Adventure* with 24 attendees, *Scorpion Hunt* with 31 attendees.
- In June, the park hosted nine interpretive programs with 255 attendees. One outreach program (*Tarantulas!*) with 135 attendees
- The highlighted programs for the month: *Full Moon Hike* and *Clay Mine Adventure*

Estrella Mountain Regional Park:

- Estrella's horse concession, Corral West, completed their first season. They reported a moderately successful first season with a steep learning curve, but overall good ridership and business advancement.
- On May 27th, *Race Timers* held a foot race at the Competitive Track. The early morning event was enjoyed by about 100 runners.
- Interviews are being conducted this month for a new Interpretive Ranger and Park Maintenance Worker.
- With the warmer May temperatures, hiking and ramada reservations have dropped off considerably.
- A large cleanup project was held on June 16th with 42 people from Luke Air Force Base. Park staff and hosts also participated in the effort near the riverbed on the northeast corner of the Estrella Park. The group worked for four hours gathering mounds of trash filling one large roll-off dumpster and two small dumpsters with trash, boards, cement and various other items. A record 74 tires were collected and Maricopa County's Risk Recycling Program will turn the tires into rubberized asphalt.
- On June 24th and 25th, Aravaipa Running had a night run on the Competitive Track. 232 runners braved the heat, but enjoyed the night sky in the park.

Lake Pleasant Regional Park:

- Lake Pleasant offered 43 interpretive programs during the months of May and June to the delight of 552 program participants. The highlights of the months included *Family Fishing Fun*, *Desert Awareness*, and *Venomous Critters*.
- Memorial Weekend was another huge hit at Lake Pleasant. Unfortunately, due to the increased demand and limited shoreline, the park had to close for approximately three hours for additional visitors on both Saturday, May 27th, and Sunday, May 28th. Special thanks to the Lake Pleasant staff for working diligently in the heat to try to expedite entry and maximize parking when possible and for assisting with traffic control needs around the park.
- Special thanks to the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office Chain Gang as they came out to the park on four separate occasions to help provide trash cleanup support around the park, as well as remove vegetation growth along the roadway guard rails.
- The park also had four volunteer groups (totaling approximately 275 volunteers) from various agencies around the community (to include but not limited to Grand Canyon University, Boy Scouts/Girl Scouts, Scuba Adventures and the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints). The groups came out on separate occasions to assist with trash cleanup after the busy (and messy) holiday weekends.
- The park interpretive rangers and the park supervisor attended a training session in collaboration with the Arizona Game and Fish Department to receive kayaking certification and introduce a new joint-effort programming on kayaking to the public. The Park is currently looking at dates in late fall of 2017 to implement the programs at Lake Pleasant.
- The Agua Fria Conservation Area boat launch was closed after Memorial Weekend due to the lowering water levels and in response to the lifting of the bald eagle closure. Access is still available to the public at the upper parking lot of the Agua Fria Conservation Area.

McDowell Mountain Regional Park:

- In the month of May, 12 interpretive programs were offered at the park with 20 people in attendance. The most popular single event of the month was the *Friday Fitness Hike* which drew 6 people.
- One special event took place during the month of May, the *Adrenaline Night Run* took place on the 20th with 323 runners participating and nearly 100 spectators in attendance.
- In the month of June, 14 interpretive programs were offered at the park with 69 people in attendance. The most popular single event of the month was the *Sunset to Moonlight Stroll* which drew 45 people.
- We kicked off our Summer Night Ride Series in the month of June; one night ride took place on Saturday, June 17th on the Pemberton Trail with approximately 115 people participating. Fountain Hills Bike Shop co-sponsors this program by providing water, soda and snacks after the ride.
- During the month of June, park maintenance staff completed re-painting doors at several of our restroom facilities; three in the main campground, the Trailhead Staging area, the Competitive Track and the entry station.

San Tan Mountain Regional Park:

- In May, San Tan hosted 21 programs with a total of 350 participants. Audiences enjoyed a mixture of early morning hikes, afternoon/evening strolls and indoor presentations.
- The focal point for the month was the recurring Trail Work Volunteer Day. Lending a hand that day were members of the San Tan Trail Runners Club, a Bank of America employee network group and the general public. They assisted park staff in their efforts to cover an established spider trail in the Rock Peak Wash trailhead area.
- A local Boy Scout troop visited San Tan's critter room for a meet and greet with our Animal Ambassadors. The ten members of their group learned about desert snakes, lizards and scorpions with a focus on respecting animals and keeping wild animals wild.
- For June, 302 participants attended 20 programs offered for the month. With the warm weather, the ranger started an indoor lunchtime series to educate people on potential dangers associated with Arizona summers, snake encounters and heat distress. Several people learned how to stay safe while enjoying the outdoors this time of year.
- Ranger Nikki presented an outreach program to 20 children and adults at Robson Library on June 22nd as part of their Awesome Occupations series. She gave a presentation on what it's like to be a Park Ranger and brought along two special guests from San Tan's critter room, Gypsy the Gopher Snake and Wally the Chuckwalla. For most of the participants, it was the first time they had ever been close enough to a snake to touch its tail or be eye to eye with a chuckwalla.
- Also in June, park staff Peter Marsala assisted McDowell Mountain Regional Park by leading a group of 45 people on a night hike and sharing stories of the park's interesting pioneer-era history.

Spur Cross Conservation Area:

- The Park hosted 11 interpretive programs in May with 157 participants attending.
- The highlighted programs for the month: *Geology Hike* with 54 attendees and *Find the Ranger* with 23 attendees.
- In June, the park hosted nine programs with 82 participants in attendance.
- The highlighted programs for the month: *Full Moon Hike* with 26 attendees and *Life along the Creek* with 17 participants.

Usery Mountain Regional Park:

- Usery Mountain Regional Park offered 14 interpretive ranger programs in May totaling 490 participants. In June, the park offered 17 interpretive ranger programs totaling 901 participants.
- Our popular *Scorpion Hunt* program kicked off again this summer and is averaging 123 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 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 Two-Wheel Jones, 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.
- The Park Supervisor was asked to speak at a Kyrene Rotary Club meeting and gave a short presentation about the park system in general, as well as Usery Park and the amenities offered to the public.
- Usery Park offered a workshop for the 2017 Society of Outdoor Recreation Professionals Conference in AZ. The Park Ranger led a guided hike on Wind Cave Trail to about 30 Recreation Professionals from around the U.S. After the hike, the Park Supervisor presented on the park's shared use agreement with Tonto National Forest and challenges that are faced when working with another government agency.
- The Usery Mountain Archers hosted a Cinco de Mayo 3D Shoot which brought in 34 archers from around the state.
- A new memorial bench was placed at the viewing pond adding additional seating for those who want to enjoy a peaceful view of Pass Mountain.

White Tank Mountain Regional Park:

- The park provided 11 programs, outreaches, and events in May with 406 attending. In spite of the climbing temperatures, the always popular *Stargazing for Everyone* was especially well attended with 198 budding stargazers.
- Longtime Park Supervisor, Raymond Schell, started work for Montana State Parks at the end of May. Interviews for a new park supervisor were held in May and the new supervisor will start around the end of July.
- The park provided 10 programs, outreaches, and events in June with a total attendance of 396. Even with the sizzling June temperatures, the *Family Moonlight Hike* and *Critter Riddles* were very well attended.
- The park maintenance team is working diligently to eradicate the Seed Bugs who have invaded every building in the park. An increased number of bugs is being caused by the warmer temperatures and increased humidity with the oncoming monsoon season. Many neighbors of the park are reporting that they are experiencing the same issues with the bugs.
- During the summer heat, hikers are utilizing the early morning and near sunset hours to enjoy the park.

Vulture Mountain Regional Park:

- May saw many changes at the Hassayampa River Preserve (HRP). After the transfer of the Preserve from The Nature Conservancy (TNC) to Maricopa County in late April, staff has been moving forward with the planning and installation of many of the infrastructure improvements. Trenching began for the IT lines to the Visitor Center. The Trades Crew completed additional upgrades on the entrance road and overflow parking lot.
- On May 13th, the Preserve celebrated International Migratory Bird Day with public programming. Several bird walks were held in the morning, led by Preserve volunteers. Liberty Wildlife volunteers also brought three live birds out for a display in the Visitor Center: a Turkey Vulture, a Zone-tailed Hawk, and a Great-horned Owl. Visitors to the Preserve enjoyed seeing these avian ambassadors up close.
- On May 16th, HRP also hosted the Parks Commission meeting, which was followed by a special ceremony, a "Key Moment", in which the keys of the Preserve were symbolically handed over from TNC to Maricopa County Supervisor Clint Hickman, celebrating and recognizing the accomplishments of the many people involved in the process of the transfer of the Preserve. (A public Grand Opening is planned for the fall – stay tuned!). Visitation overall for the month was 717 visitors.
- Department and park staff attended a wildfire preparedness meeting at the Wickenburg Fire Department. The multi-agency meeting, organized by Wickenburg Fire, was also attended by BLM (Bureau of Land Management), Wickenburg Police Department, and AZ Department of Public Safety, focused on wildfire preparedness of the Hassayampa River Corridor, an important and high-risk resource. Following this meeting, several fire crews working details in the area (BLM, U.S. Forest Service) conducted site visits to the Preserve to familiarize themselves with the resource. Staff will continue to work with BLM and Wickenburg Fire to help develop and implement a fire management strategy.
- June continued with more infrastructure work and project planning. Contractors ran the IT cables through the Visitor Center to the various office spaces – a tricky endeavor in a 140+ year old adobe structure. Preserve

and management staff also did a walk-around of the Preserve to discuss priorities for summer projects, including grounds and infrastructure projects.

- Interpretive programming was light in June due to the heat and not being fully-staffed. A bird walk kicked off programming at the beginning of the month. Hiking at the Preserve was also highlighted by the Town of Wickenburg in their publication advertising Nationals Trails Day on June 3rd. The Preserve also held a weeklong *Kids Nature Camp* in June, continuing a beloved TNC program. The Park Supervisor worked with a local teacher, Melissa Tighe, who had led the camp in the past, to develop STEM-based activities and projects focused on the unique resources of the Hassayampa River Preserve. Ms Tighe led the Kids Camp with help from a Preserve volunteer. Materials and supplies for Camp were provided by the Friends of Hassayampa. Despite tough competition with other local activities, we had seven kids attend *Kids Nature Camp*. We look forward to growing *Kids Nature Camp* in the future. The overall visitation for June was 380 visitors.
- The Preserve was a field training site for the Yellow-billed Cuckoo survey training organized by AZGFD (Arizona Game and Fish Department). As was the case last year, the Westside Superintendent attended the classroom and field training.



June 27, 2017

To Our Project Team Members and Partners:

We would like to update you on the status of our project and give you a tentative schedule for the ongoing project development. The Legacy Sports Park project is now in its funding phase, having passed the basic development tests for business structure, land use, and overall preliminary design for the property upon which the project will be constructed.

During this final phase that brings the many components of project funding together under one umbrella, there are many moving parts that all must interact with one another. This is a time-consuming effort that involves many entities and professionals who are committed to achieving final funding that will allow our project to proceed.

We believe that within the next sixty (60) days, we should have a clearer schedule of the final events involved with the execution of funding agreements that will enable us to commence the full design phase of the project. We will do our best to update everyone as this process unfolds. In the meantime, we would like to thank you for your continued support and patience.

Please let me know if you need any additional information. We at Legacy Sports want to express our gratefulness for your participation in our project and look forward to working with you as this project advances into the next phases of design and construction.

Sincerely,

Legacy Sports, LLC

Randy J. Miller
Chief Executive Officer

EXHIBIT 2 – Scope of Services/Work/ Specifications and Map (continued)

(Not to Scale, acreages are approximate)

