



Maricopa County Parks & Recreation Department

MEMORANDUM

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

Date: November 10, 2021
To: Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission
From: R.J. Cardin, Director
Re: Director's Summary of Current Events

Listed below are activities the department has been involved with during **September and October 2021**.

100 Miles in 100 Days Challenge:

- The Parks Department kicked off the *2022 100 Mile Challenge* on Monday, November 1. To date, more than 1,300 participants have registered. The self-guided challenge is to log 100 miles in 100 days (200 miles for mountain bikers and/or horseback riders) within three Maricopa County regional parks or two regional parks and the Maricopa/Sun Circle Trail. The Challenge runs through February 8, 2022.

Employee Service Awards:

The following employees were recognized at the Parks Department's first All-Hands Virtual meeting.

- **5-years**
Shayla Gunn, Park Supervisor
Carl Fuller, Trades Specialist
Trevor Askew, Trades Supervisor
Mary Christopher, Administrative Assistant
Rick Plautz, Park Supervisor
Amber Gore, Asset/Inventory Coordinator
Casey Hogstrom, Trades Specialist
- **10-years**
Ray Martin, Park Maintenance
Jim Apthorp, Park Maintenance
- **15-years**
Jonathan McKelvey, Trails Specialist
R.J. Cardin, Director
Kevin Smith, Interpretive Ranger
Chris Simpson, Administrative Supervisor
Andrea Despotides, Office Assistant
Mark Ostapczuk, Park Maintenance
Teresa Retterbush, Eastside Superintendent
Jeanine O'Reilly, Accounting Specialist
Natalie Harper, Park Education Supervisor
- **20-years**
Don Harris, Park Supervisor
Richard Castillo, Park Maintenance
- **25-years**
Aimee Upton, Administrator
Terry Gerber, Interpretive Ranger
Jenn Waller, Operation Manager

The Strategic System Master Plan:

- *Parks Vision 2030* draft plan is progressing nicely. An *About the Project* video was prepared and uploaded to the project website. Over 200 people have joined the project website's contact list, and approximately 148 pre-registrations were received for the public meetings. Public meetings were held on Monday, November 8 at 5:30 p.m. with 71 participants from the public, and on Wednesday, November 10 at 12:00 noon with approximately 55 participants. A public outreach feedback form has been developed in SurveyMonkey in both English and Spanish. The feedback form links were posted to the project website with a closing date of Friday, December 10.

Board of Supervisors Agenda Items:

Date/ Status	Tracking Number	Summary
9/1/2021 Approved	C-30-22-047-X-00	Donations: Accept the restricted monetary donation of \$1,050 for a memorial bench to be placed within Usery Mountain Regional Park from Mary Elizabeth Waldron, and a \$1,050 donation for a memorial bench to be placed within Hassayampa River Preserve from Debra Martinez.
9/1/2021 Approved	C-06-22-793-X-00	Donations: Accept the monthly donation report for July 2021 for the cash value of \$1,013.08.
10/6/2021 Approved	C-06-22-933-X-00	Reappointment to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission: Approve the reappointment of Isabel Chavez to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission, representing Supervisorial District 5. The term of service will be effective as of Board approval through December 31, 2022.
10/6/2021 Approved	C-30-22-050-X-00	Donations: Accept the restricted monetary donation of \$1,050 for a memorial bench to be placed within Cave Creek Regional Park from K. Ahern and a \$1,050 donation for a memorial bench to be placed within McDowell Mountain Regional Park from Jonathan & Christina Hohn.
10/6/2021 Approved	C-30-22-051-X-00	Approve Conveyance of Easement of Flood Control District of Maricopa County Parcel to Maricopa County: Execute Non-Exclusive Non-Motorized Recreation Easements pursuant to Intergovernmental Agreement for recreational use of District property by the Maricopa County Parks and Recreational Department between the Flood Control District of Maricopa County and the County of Maricopa through the Parks and Recreation Department IGA FCD 2006A002. The parcel is known as the Jackrabbit Trail.
10/6/2021 Approved	C-06-22-871-X-00	Donations: Accept the monthly donation report for August 2021 for the cash value of \$689.31.
10/20/2021 Approved	C-30-22-052-X-00	Collection Agreement with Arizona Game and Fish Commission (AGF) for Agua Fria Conservation Area Boating Facilities Improvements: Approve and execute a Collection Agreement between AGF and Maricopa County through the Parks and Recreation Department for the purchase, installation, and maintenance of an entrance station building associated with the existing boat launch facility within the Agua Fria Conservation Area of Lake Pleasant Regional Park.
10/20/2021 Approved	C-30-07-011-2-02	Amendment to IGA with Arizona Board of Regents: Approve and execute Amendment 2 to the IGA between Maricopa County and the Arizona Board of Regents on behalf of Arizona State University, University of Arizona and Northern Arizona University as amended. Amendment Two will extend the term of the Agreement five years, from November 2, 2021, until November 1, 2026, and will make other administrative changes.
10/20/2021 Approved	C-30-22-053-X-00	Application for Land for Recreation or Public Purposes with the Department of Interior Bureau of Land Management (BLM) for Usery Mountain Regional Park: Approve and execute Application for Land for Recreation or Public Purposes with BLM for a portion of land, 80 acres, within Usery Mountain Regional Park. This parcel was added to the original Usery Mountain Regional Park property to accommodate a new model aviators recreation facility. This new Application will renew the existing lease of 80 acres for up to 20 years. The original application was approved on January 5, 1994, under agenda tracking number PR93315.

Administration

Budget Forecast:

Department		Fund	Appropriation Unit		Expenditures			Revenue			
Code	Name	Code	Name	Code	Name	Appropriation	Detail Budget	Variance	Appropriation	Detail Budget	Variance
D300	Parks and Recreation	100	General	OPER	Operating	\$861,313	\$861,313	\$0			
D300	Parks and Recreation	225	Spur Cross Ranch Conservation	NRNP	Non Recurring Non Project	\$100,000	\$60,000	\$40,000			
D300	Parks and Recreation	225	Spur Cross Ranch Conservation	OPER	Operating	\$321,657	\$321,657	\$0	\$341,141	\$351,500	-\$10,359
D300	Parks and Recreation	230	Parks and Recreation Grants	NRNP	Non Recurring Non Project	\$88,000	\$88,000	\$0	\$88,000	\$88,000	\$0
D300	Parks and Recreation	230	Parks and Recreation Grants	OPER	Operating					\$880	-\$880
D300	Parks and Recreation	239	Parks Souvenir	OPER	Operating	\$321,884	\$267,119	\$54,765	\$321,884	\$316,153	\$5,731
D300	Parks and Recreation	240	Lake Pleasant Recreation Services	NRNP	Non Recurring Non Project	\$1,638,191	\$1,580,091	\$58,100			
D300	Parks and Recreation	240	Lake Pleasant Recreation Services	OPER	Operating	\$4,180,807	\$3,833,634	\$347,173	\$4,180,807	\$4,074,084	\$106,723
D300	Parks and Recreation	241	Parks Enhancement	NRNP	Non Recurring Non Project	\$1,205,000	\$810,521	\$394,479	\$0	\$0	\$0
D300	Parks and Recreation	241	Parks Enhancement	OPER	Operating	\$6,825,259	\$6,679,749	\$145,510	\$6,825,259	\$6,940,192	-\$114,933
D300	Parks and Recreation	243	Parks Donations	NRNP	Non Recurring Non Project	\$78,500	\$78,500	\$0			
D300	Parks and Recreation	243	Parks Donations	OPER	Operating	\$32,240	\$26,776	\$5,464	\$47,876	\$52,666	-\$4,790
D300	Parks and Recreation	243	Parks Donations	WMD3	Daisy Mountain And Trails	\$135,000	\$135,000	\$0			

- Variance Notes:
 - Souvenir revenue is down due to a lack of supply
 - Lake revenue reported 13 weeks same time in FY21, only 12 weeks reported in FY22

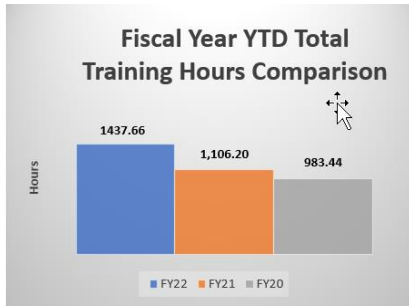
Contract Administration:

- **Buckeye Hills:** Arizona State Pistol and Rifle Association (ASPR) manages the General Joe Foss Shooting Range at Buckeye Hills Regional Park in partnership with Parks. ASRPA has respectfully requested a suspension of the archery program including the 3D Hunters Education course due to very low use (average three persons a month) along with the current cost to refurbish the targets is \$3,000. Archers have several indoor archery range options in the Phoenix metro area and the Ben Avery archery facility is a 5-Star rated operation.
- **Adobe Dam:** The solicitation for an Invitation to Negotiate for a Public-Private Partnership for the Adobe Dam Sports Fields is tentatively scheduled for release by November 18, 2022. A \$50,000.00 bid bond is to be included with each respondent's proposal. The ITN suggests that the respondent work directly with the Concessionaire (Victory Lane Sports) for an assignment of the UMA. Incorporated into this ITN is an option for the undeveloped land located adjacent to the existing facility along with lands to the east, south, and west (up to 300+ acres).

Human Resources

- **Welcome:**
 - Jason Kowalski, Electrician, 09/20/2021
 - Brayden Lightfoot, Contact Station Assistant, Lake Pleasant, 09/27/2021
 - Shaun Barnett, Contact Station Assistant, Lake Pleasant, 10/25/2021
 - James Conway, Park Maintenance Worker, San Tan, 11/1/2021
 - Roberta Rodriguez, Office Assistant, Estrella, 11/1/2021
 - Sean Stearman, Park Maintenance Worker, Cave Creek, 11/1/2021
 - Janet Lewis, Contact Station Assistant, Cave Creek, 11/3/2021
- **Farewells**
 - Alan Rasmussen, Contact Station Assistant, Lake Pleasant, 09/27/2021
 - James Apthorp, Park Maintenance Worker, White Tank, 10/22/2021
- **Vacancies**
 - Contact Station Assistant – PCN 77993, Lake Pleasant, offer accepted, in background check
 - Contact Station Assistant – PCN 68857, San Tan, candidate selected, in compensation phase
 - Park Maintenance Worker, McDowell, PCN 17169, reposting-last recruitment yielded no suitable candidates
 - Park Planning and Development Division Manager, PCN 1456, in recruitment
 - Park Maintenance Supervisor, PCN 12822, Lake Pleasant, in recruitment
 - ON HOLD:
 - Office Assistant Specialized, Lake Pleasant, 68898
 - Interpretive Ranger, DOC, PCN 61616
 - Park Maintenance Worker, White Tank, PCN 77031
 - Park Maintenance Worker, White Tank, PCN 17167
 - Parks Maintenance Worker, Utery, PCN 1416
 - Interpretive Ranger, Estrella, PCN 1471
 - Trails Project Manager, PCN 80008
 - Contact Station Assistant, Lake Pleasant, PCN 79568 (Temp/PT)
 - Contact Station Assistant, Lake Pleasant, PCN 79569 (Temp/PT)

Training Hours (FY22 through October 2021):



Volunteer Hours (FY22 through October 2021):

TOTAL Volunteer Hours, by month														
	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	YTD Total	
FY22 - All Hours	3268	3362	4038	8069	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	18,737	
FY21 - All Hours	2,800	2,738	2,699	8,598	11,094	11,790	13,369	12,121	13,745	7,826	3,962	4,428	16,835	
FY20 - All Hours	1,900	1,955	3,884	7,020	10,497	12,463	12,711	12,213	13,177	7,229	3,933	2,768	14,758	
FY19 - All Hours	2,754	2,824	2,968	4,373	9,230	10,390	10,847	13,141	12,575	7,832		0	12,919	

Financial Impact of Volunteers, by Month														
	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	YTD Total	
FY22 Financial Impact	\$88,890	\$91,446	\$109,834	\$219,477	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$509,646	
FY21 Financial Impact	\$71,204	\$69,627	\$68,636	\$218,647	\$282,120	\$299,820	\$339,974	\$308,237	\$349,535	\$199,015	\$100,754	\$112,604	\$428,114	
FY20 Financial Impact	\$48,329	\$49,703	\$98,758	\$178,512	\$266,947	\$316,943	\$323,231	\$310,569	\$335,088	\$183,844	\$100,018	\$70,398	\$375,302	
FY19 Financial Impact	\$67,996	\$69,725	\$73,280	\$107,969	\$227,889	\$256,529	\$267,812	\$324,451	\$310,483	\$193,381	\$0	\$0	\$318,970	

Special Days of Service event listings:	Date	Attendance	Hours
Lake Pleasant - LDS - Clean-Up	9/11/2021	40	40
White Tank - Clean-Up	9/18/2021	18	36
Lake Pleasant - NPLD - Clean-Up	9/25/2021	150	600
White Tank - NPLD - Clean-Up	9/25/2021	15	45
Cave Creek - NPLD	9/26/2021	2	6
Spur Cross - NPLD	9/26/2021	2	6
Spur Cross - Butterfly	10/2/2021	8	35
White Tank - Butterfly	10/2/2021	7	17
Estrella - Butterfly	10/2/2021	8	31
HRP - Butterfly	10/2/2021	10	40
Cave Creek - Native Seed Garden	10/15/2021	2	6
White Tank - Church - Clean-Up	10/16/2021	19	38
HRP - Highway Clean-Up	10/30/2021	6	18

Website Analytics

MARICOPA COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION DEPT.
AUGUST 2021 - OCTOBER 2021 - WEBSITE ANALYTICS

PAGE VIEWS - MONTHLY TOTALS - 539,107

Month	2019	2020	2021	% Change
AUGUST	126,605	141,484	147,152	+3.92%
SEPTEMBER	146,219	168,103	165,323	-1.66%
OCTOBER	201,213	216,972	226,632	+4.35%

TOP FIVE PAGE VIEWS
AUGUST 2021 - OCTOBER 2021

Month	Page View	Views
AUGUST	Lake Pleasant home page	14,840
	Home page	9,402
	Lake Pleasant camping	6,273
	White Tank home page	5,816
	Usery home page	4,735
SEPTEMBER	Lake Pleasant park locator	15,056
	Home page	10,782
	Lake Pleasant camping	6,939
	White Tank home page	6,884
	Usery home page	5,871
OCTOBER	Home page	14,452
	Lake Pleasant home page	13,827
	White Tank home page	10,341
	Cave Creek home page	9,072
	Usery home page	8,965

Planning and Development Division

Project Management

- The project manager completed the Adobe Dam Regional Park Central Arizona Project (CAP) Pump Replacement project in September. This project involved replacing both pumps, checking and replacing valves, electrical gear and components.
- The Lake Pleasant ET Bed Shotcrete project was completed in October. This project involved installing wire mesh on the banks and shooting concrete on them.
- The DOC sewer main line and manhole repair project was completed in October. This project involved repairing seven locations on the main line and repairing and epoxy coating 13 manholes.

Trades Crew

- The Trades team completed the repair and replacement of the Estrella Park irrigation pump and motor in September. This project involved troubleshooting and replacement of the pump, motor, and other components that provide water to irrigate the turf and trees at Estrella Park.
- The Hassayampa River Preserve storm cleanup, trail repair, tree removal, and water line repair were completed in September. This project involved the removal of multiple hazardous tree limbs that were suspended above the trail, repairing eroded areas along the trail, and repairing the water lines around the nature center that were damaged during the monsoon.
- The Electricians completed the preventative maintenance on the remaining 50% of the Lake Pleasant electrical pedestals in September. This involved the inspection and repair of the internal wiring, electrical outlets, breakers, and exterior metal coverings of the remaining campground electrical pedestals to ensure they function to factory specifications.
- The Trades Crew completed the repair and replacement of the Lake Pleasant HQ well meter in September. This required the fabrication of a new pipe section due to the original pipe section being corroded and the install of a new water meter to monitor the water used in the park.
- In October, the Electricians completed the preventative maintenance of the McDowell Park electrical pedestals. This involved the inspection and repair of the internal wiring, electrical outlets, breakers, and exterior metal coverings in all of the campground electrical pedestals to ensure they function to factory specifications.
- The Trades team also completed the Vulture Mine Cactus removal and relocation project in October. This involved the identification, removal, and transport of Saguaro, Hedgehog, Pin Cushion, and Barrel cactus from the construction zones at Vulture Mine Park and distributing them to the designated Park locations for planting.
- The Trades team completed the repair of the Lake Pleasant 10-lane ET bed road in October. This involved bringing in multiple loads of dirt and rock to fill eroded areas of the road and grading the road for proper drainage and compaction.

Maricopa Trail, Sun Circle, and Trailhead Facilities:

- Agreement preparation/negotiations
 - City of Phoenix – IGA for Segment 7 Sun Circle/Maricopa Trail in review by the City of Phoenix.
 - CAP – License application for Segment 76 submitted 12/15/2020.
 - WAPA (Western Area Power Administration) license applications (four) for Segment 76 approved 7/20/21. Pending submittal to Board of Supervisors.
 - MCDOT – Permit application for Segment 1 sign placement approved 5/7/21.
 - MCFCD (Flood Control District) – Permits submitted for Segments 1 and 27. Segment 35 Maricopa Trail move approved by Board of Supervisors in October 2021.
 - ADOT – Guadalupe Bridge re-construction with the multi-use path in planning.
- Construction
 - Repairing Segment 12 Waddell Canal Trail in November 2021.
 - Repairing fire and erosion damage on Segment 22 in December 2021.
- Maintenance
 - Groomed tread and brushed the following segments this period: 11, 12, 33, 35, and 8.
 - Cut dangerous limbs at Hassayampa Preserve over trails with man lift.
 - Re-built wash blowout on the Butterfield Trail, Estrella Mountain Regional Park.
 - Conducting training for Parks Maintenance crews November 2021.
 - Scheduling AmeriCorps crew deployment January 2022 (three crews).

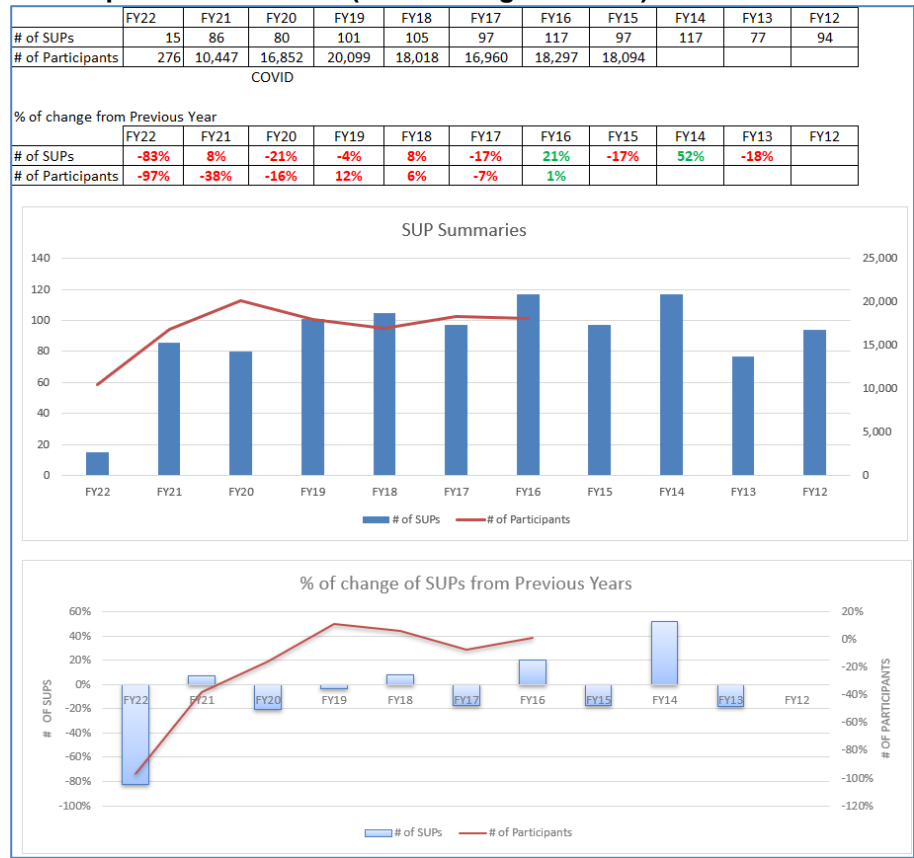
- Route Determination
 - Segment 77 Vulture Mountain to Lake Pleasant – Submitted route to BLM 1/25/21. Refined new trail routes in January and April 2021. Site visits completed April 2021. Working with BOR and CAP on CAP canal alignment near Hassayampa River.
 - Segment 76 White Tank to Vulture Mountain - Submitted route to BLM 1/25/21. Refined route April 2021. Site visits completed May 2021. Holding monthly BLM meetings.
 - Vulture Mountain Recreation Area – Surveyed alignment for plant removal/relocation and helped Trades Crew relocate plants.

Natural Resources

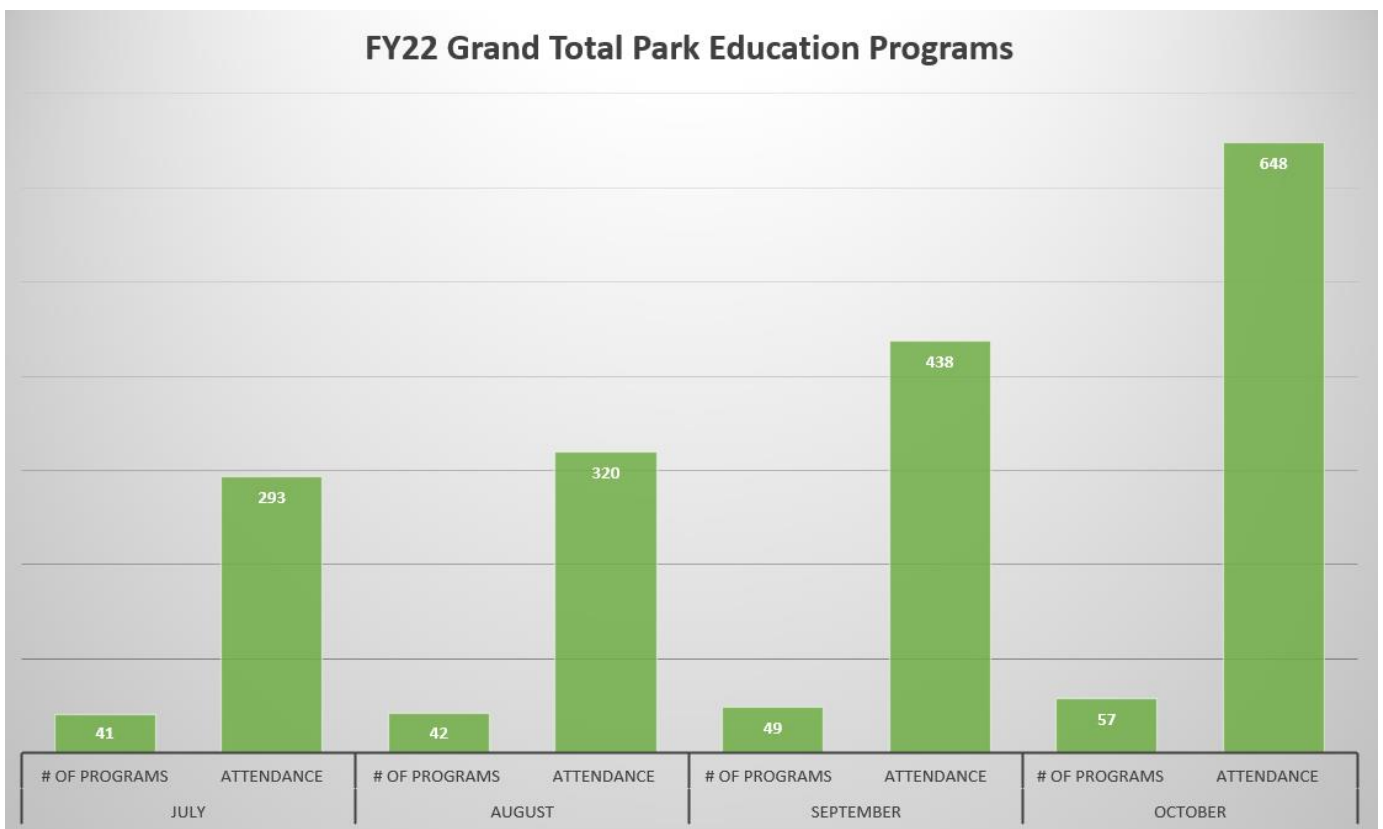
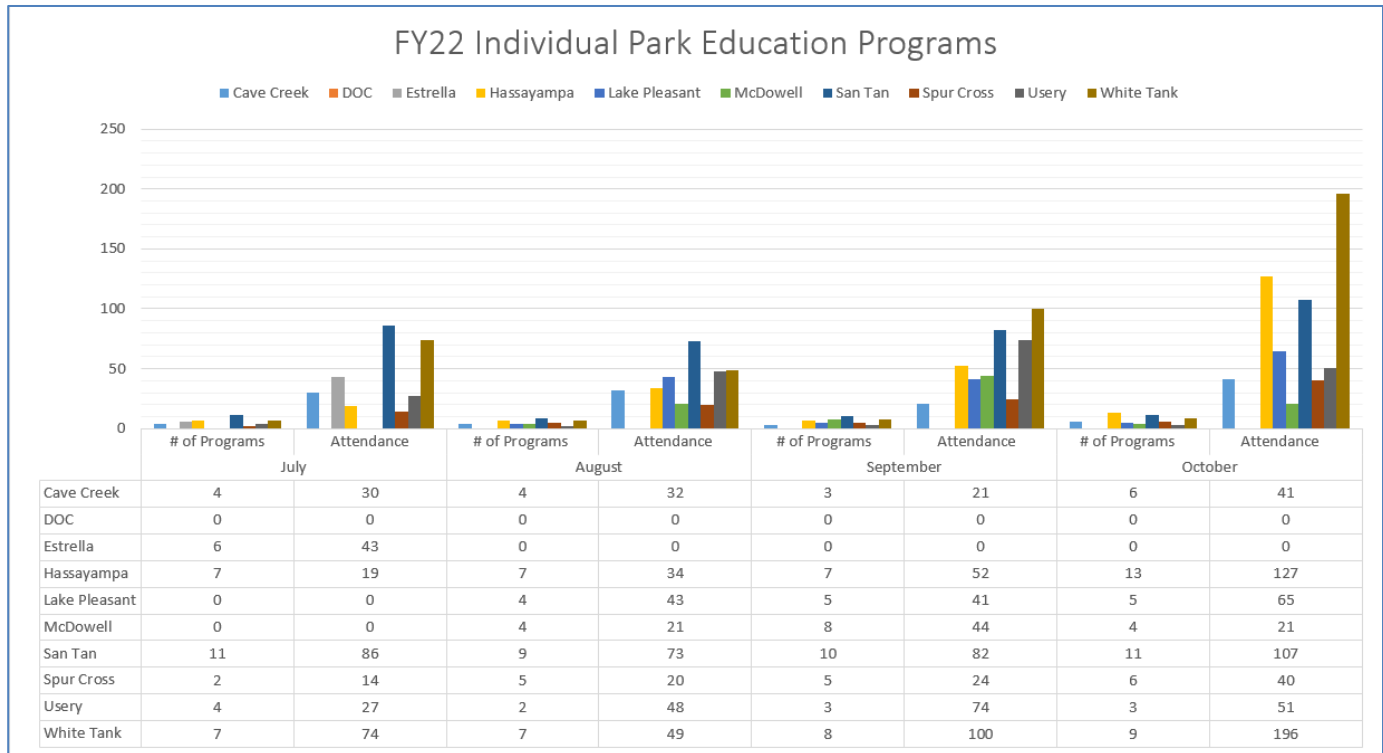
- With assistance from the Central Arizona Butterfly Association and the Arizona Master Naturalist Association (MCC), the Natural Resource Specialist hosted a butterfly workshop on October 1, with over 45 participants. On October 2, staff hosted the first bi-annual citizen science butterfly monitoring at four regional parks (Estrella Regional Park, White Tank Regional Park, Hassayampa River Preserve, and Spur Cross Conservation Area). Butterfly experts led the team at each of the four parks while training the Park Interpretive Rangers to lead future programs. Over 31 attendees and 11 interpretive rangers participated in the monitoring; they counted 2,251 butterflies representing 38 butterfly species. The next workshop and monitoring event will occur in March 2022.
- The Natural Resource Specialist worked with the Desert Botanic Garden staff and other local botanists to develop a Floristic Quality Assessment (FQA) database. An FQA is a value-driven tool used to assess an area's ecological integrity based on its plant species composition. FQA metrics are used in decision-making for managing natural areas' ecological integrity and are based on plant species composition. The team provided a C value to over 1,600 plants that occur within Maricopa County. The rollout of this tool will occur in January as a CAZCA (Central Arizona Conservation Alliance) speaker series event.

Parks Operations Report

Parks Special Use Permits (FY21 through October)



Interpretive Ranger Programs (FY22 through October)



Cave Creek Regional Park

- The administration staff has been submitting merchandise orders for the gift shop in the Nature Center to prepare for the fall season.
- Our covered host sites were booked all season this summer with campers trying to get out of the heat.
- The maintenance staff inspected and completed any needed repairs to closed campsites to ensure a smooth reopening of the sites on September 1. The campground has been packed every weekend throughout October and the day-use visitation is also increasing.
- The staff has been reviewing the mine documentation and has prioritized six closures to be completed this season.
- Five host couples have arrived for the season, and three more couples will be coming in November. The administrative assistant has been training the new host couples in the Point Of Sale System.
- The annual *C4 Mountain Bike Race* has been canceled for November due to some trail access problems in the Town of Cave Creek.
- Cave Creek Trail Rides is arriving the last week of October and will start trail rides the first weekend of November.

Estrella Mountain Regional Park

- Estrella Park welcomed another host couple in September. The office staff is gearing up to onboard the fall hosts and volunteers.
- With the rain came a great deal of tree growth, so much of September was for tree trimming and irrigation repair.
- There was an increase in general public park use in September. Hiking increased and some evening picnic groups made reservations, including one small car club with about 75 people in attendance.
- The north and west end of the Estrella turf area is slated for additional granite and landscaping along with additional trees and bushes.
- The Park Maintenance Workers are moving valve boxes and some sprinkler heads to accommodate the work and new plants.
- Two new sidewalks were installed to the north turf picnic ramadas. Additional openings in the cable fence were also completed at the new walkways to allow increased access from the parking lots.
- In October, Estrella had a one-foot race with Race Timers and nearly 100 people enjoyed the park trails.

Hassayampa River Preserve

- The park maintenance worker, park hosts, and volunteers completed trail maintenance and mowing throughout the month to counteract vegetation growth and trail impacts from summer rains.
- The Preserve received a *Certified Wildlife Habitat* status for the front garden area from the National Wildlife Federation.
- Parks Department staff continued discussions with The Nature Conservancy regarding plans to transfer the leased portion of the Preserve to MCPRD within approximately one year.
- Park and management staff attended a virtual meeting with the Arizona Department of Fire and Forestry Management to discuss possible fuels reduction grant opportunities.
- The County Communications Department interviewed Ranger Eric for an upcoming video about the parks.
- Staff completed assigned training, including chainsaw safety and first aid/CPR.
- Preserve volunteers and service volunteers completed an Adopt-a-Highway cleanup on a one-mile stretch of Hwy 60, collecting 17 bags of litter.
- The Trades Crew completed several repairs to water lines and the septic system.
- The Interpretive Ranger attended a Butterfly monitoring training and then co-led a Butterfly monitoring with members from the general public assisting.
- For the month, park staff and volunteers presented 13 interpretive programs and discovery/information stations. Mid-month, visitors, and staff observed a rare sight - rattlesnakes mating in the garden in front of the Visitor Center. Staff and volunteers cordoned off the area to keep the public safe and allow the rattlesnakes to go about their business.

Lake Pleasant Regional Park

- Septic repairs have been completed at Desert Tortoise campground. Some septic pumping is occurring at Roadrunner due to a possible collapsed pipe.
- Labor Day weekend was fairly quiet except for a boat sinking; the vessel is too deep to recover.
- The park is in its transitional camping season - summer campers are visiting less while winter campers are inching in early.

- Twenty staff members attended the All-Hands virtual meeting.
- Trail work is occurring on the Roadrunner and Morgan City Wash Trails. A new stack of buoys arrived in preparation for the December eagle closure. The 10-Lane docks were checked for maintenance and increasing water levels.
- Six staff attended a chainsaw safety training class.
- The lake's water level is rising about two feet per week.
- The tortoise is getting ready for its annual hibernation.
- Lift jackets from the Arizona Game and Fish Department have been restocked for the loaner program.

McDowell Mountain Regional Park

- The campground electrical upgrade project is underway with a walk-through with the contractor and staff.
- Completed the repairs and rebuilt all the showers in restroom #5 in the north campground loop.
- Staff trimmed extreme overgrowth of trees and bushes from roadways throughout the park.
- The park had two Special Use Permit (SUP) events during September, *Javelina Jangover* with approximately 600 participants and the *Insomniac Night Series*.
- Maintenance staff completed some heavy maintenance tasks throughout the park resulting from the monsoons.
- MCDOT removed and cleaned decomposed granite from the park road.
- Continue with the weeding of park facilities (trailheads and campsites).
- Seventy-eight campsites were prepared for the upcoming season.
- The park had two SUP events; *Javelin Jundred* had approximately 1,000 participants racing to complete 100 miles. *Bike MS* had approximately 300 participants.

San Tan Mountain Regional Park

- A second donated bike repair station was installed at the intersection of San Tan and Dynamite Trails.
- Maintenance cleaned and prepped the tortoise pond for the winter season.
- Maintenance removed two saguaros that fell across trails on separate occasions.
- Program partner, San Tan Valley Master Gardeners, returned for another season of monthly classes with a trailhead information table that drew eighteen participants.
- The Ranger co-led a butterfly counting session at Estrella park as part of the Natural Resources monitoring initiative.

Spur Cross Ranch Conservation Area

- Staff has been busy putting together merchandise orders for the small gift shop in the entry station to prepare for the fall season.
- Signs for the parking lot area are scheduled to be installed in the first week of November. The Interpretive Ranger has also coordinated with the Town of Cave Creek's Trail Planner to order various signage for the parking lot, equestrian trailers, and no parking areas.
- The new host couple for the entry station have arrived and are being trained in the POS System. Day-use has increased in the Conservation Area. We will start operating the entry station Friday - Sunday, starting November 5. Once the other couples arrive and complete their training, the entry station will be covered seven days a week.
- The Ranger and volunteers have continued to complete minor trail work throughout the month.

Usery Mountain Regional Park

- Staff is preparing for the upcoming host arrivals with updated training materials, coordinating computer and POS access, ensuring required training has been completed, and all documentation has been completed before arrival.
- The maintenance staff is completing maintenance issues that were identified in the annual Park Inspection.
- Staff is continuing to prepare the Archery Range for the upcoming season.
- Continued weed abatement work is being conducted throughout the park.
- Seven host couples have arrived with training commencing and getting reacquainted with the park.
- The staff has been researching and placing merchandise orders for the Nature Center gift shop.
- Due to high visitation, the Usery Nature Center transitioned to winter hours on October 18; now open 7-days a week from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- Campground repairs and maintenance have been completed and are ready for the upcoming season.

White Tank Mountain Regional Park

- Several park trails have been adopted this month. The Donor Network of AZ adopted the Waterfall Trail, Shadow Ridge High School adopted a portion of the Mesquite Trail (Pending), and Arrick Nietert adopted a part of the Goat Camp Trail.
- White Tank Entry Station was entirely demolished on Thursday, September 9. The temporary entry station was placed on the concrete pad allowing more normal traffic flow at the entry.
- Two park cleanups were scheduled during September: Willow Campground pre-season cleanup had fourteen participants. The Willow campground hosts had help with weeding, table scrubbing, restroom cleaning, and general beautification before it reopened on October 1.
- National Public Lands Day Waterfall Trail Cleanup had 26 participants. Volunteers helped pick up trash along the popular Waterfall Trail.
- *Racetimers* held a night trail running race on September 4 with 31 participants.
- Due to high visitation, the White Tank Nature Center transitioned to winter hours a few weeks early; the center is now open daily, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- White Tank's Park Supervisor, Dove Carpenter, came back to work on October 19 from maternity leave. A big thanks to Laura Jo Boyd, White Tank's Office Assistant, who stepped up as Acting Park Supervisor during Dove's break.
- Ranger Justin and volunteer Chuck successfully re-planted a variety of desert cactus removed from another park due to a roadway project. These plants now have a new home around the pond at White Tank.
- Eighteen members from the Summit Church volunteered to help clean up the Waterfall Trail area on October 16. The group picked up trash, dog poo, and other non-natural things left behind by park visitors.
- White Tank hosted the Ottawa University Cross Country meet on October 2 with 79 participants and the Arizona Interscholastic Mountain Biking Race on October 23rd and 24th with over 1,000 participants.