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MEMORANDUM

Date: September 15, 2026
To: Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission
From: Jennifer Waller, Director
Re: Director's Summary of Current Events

Listed below are activities the Department has been involved with during August 2026.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS AGENDA ITEMS:

Date/Status	Tracking Number	Summary
9/2/2026 APPROVED	C-73-25-010-X-02	240064-DBB, VULTURE MOUNTAIN RECREATION AREA AMENITIES Approve Contract Modifications 28 and 29 to Contract #240064-DBB between Maricopa County and TSG Constructors, LLC, in the amount of \$127,653.64, for the Vulture Mountain Recreation Area Amenities project located near Wickenburg, Arizona. Approval of modifications 28 and 29 will increase the total contract value to \$28,874,890.70. Approval of these contract modifications to Contract #240064-DBB with TSG Constructors, LLC is requested to address necessary changes to the on-site wastewater treatment system and Nature Center interior building walls.
9/2/2026 APPROVED	C-30-08-036-5-03	AMENDMENT TO IGA WITH CITY OF PEORIA FOR RELOCATION OF A PORTION OF MARICOPA TRAIL SEGMENT 11 (Supervisory District: 4) Approve and execute the Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) Amendment Three between the City of Peoria (City) and Maricopa County (County) for the relocation of a section of Maricopa Trail Segment 11 at El Mirage Road. The term of the Agreement shall be from the effective date of this Amendment Three and shall continue for a period of ten (10) years from the effective date unless otherwise terminated by the Parties as set forth herein. The term may be extended for up to ten (10) additional years by mutual written agreement of the

		Parties. The purpose of this relocation is to provide a safer crossing of El Mirage Road for trail users. The existing multi-use trail will be relocated to a new shared-use path along both the east and west sides of the future El Mirage Road. The relocated trail will extend from approximately 1,300 feet south of Happy Valley Road to the intersection of El Mirage Road and Happy Valley Road. Trail users will cross El Mirage Road at the new signalized intersection at Happy Valley Road, providing a safe, controlled crossing. Any costs associated with the relocation, design, permitting, and construction of the multi-modal trail in conjunction with relocation as stated in this Amendment Three, shall be the sole responsibility of the City. This Amendment Three authorizes the Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department (MCPRD) Director to administer the IGA, including executing documents necessary for its administration. All other terms of the IGA remain unchanged and in full force and effect, consistent with prior amendments and the perpetual trail provisions of the original IGA. The agreement is non-financial.
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ADMINISTRATION/FINANCE DIVISION:

PARKS VISITOR ATTENDANCE REPORT (FY27 THROUGH AUGUST):

	FY27	Jul-26	Aug-26	Sep-26	Oct-26	Nov-26	Dec-26	Jan-27	Feb-27	Mar-27	Apr-27	May-27	Jun-27
	FY26	Jul-25	Aug-25	Sep-25	Oct-25	Nov-25	Dec-25	Jan-26	Feb-26	Mar-26	Apr-26	May-26	Jun-26
	FY25	Jul-24	Aug-24	Sep-24	Oct-24	Nov-24	Dec-24	Jan-25	Feb-25	Mar-25	Apr-25	May-25	Jun-25
	FY24	Aug-24	Aug-23	Sep-23	Oct-23	Nov-23	Dec-23	Jan-24	Feb-24	Mar-24	Apr-24	May-24	Jun-24
Cave Creek		1,658	1,457										
	FY26	1,269	1,643	1,750	5,111	11,928	13,066	15,174	15,222	13,574	9,812	3,694	1,858
	FY25	1,359	1,291	2,096	5,972	12,216	11,866	13,586	13,416	16,178	11,427	5,513	1,926
	FY24	1,266	1,621	3,312	9,690	12,328	12,736	13,249	14,271	17,256	12,085	4,392	1,566
Estrella		2,063	2,004										
	FY26	945	867	3,848	5,302	8,036	8,410	10,792	10,379	7,225	8,464	5,003	2,285
	FY25	1,697	2,268	4,180	4,704	10,381	9,037	13,005	9,168	12,934	9,535	3,292	1,356
	FY24	1,864	2,003	5,174	6,395	10,104	9,024	12,047	11,453	17,739	10,452	5,525	2,967
McDowell Mtn		814	1,348										
	FY26	1,526	1,493	3,041	19,421	16,010	22,195	15,219	18,154	15,739	9,853	5,521	1,219
	FY25	957	1,732	2,853	14,766	13,601	15,036	16,133	14,266	16,889	8,059	3,937	1,641
	FY24	1,268	1,766	3,851	14,137	13,901	15,071	15,379	15,388	17,288	9,778	5,090	4,980
	FY23	1,685	1,845	3,792	13,861	18,134	17,277	17,201	16,816	22,719	15,714	5,747	2,418
San Tan Park		5,234	6,243										
	FY26	4,055	3,869	6,610	10,988	17,815	19,105	22,510	19,169	18,983	15,956	12,392	5,653
	FY25	2,986	4,401	7,476	11,580	23,690	23,614	30,563	29,024	29,420	19,224	9,797	5,436
	FY24	3,680	4,209	8,094	13,823	22,089	23,452	28,344	26,251	27,136	16,149	10,300	5,244
Spur Cross		188	45										
	FY26	252	231	602	1,540	3,872	4,282	5,093	5,049	3,877	2,427	665	215
	FY25	125	180	346	1,166	4,794	4,779	6,113	6,497	6,322	3,806	1,471	417
	FY24	130	118	488	1,575	6,699	4,511	6,053	7,258	8,282	4,917	1,184	7,671
Usery Mtn Park		6,888	6,015										
	FY26	7,524	7,330	9,353	19,319	28,493	26,335	31,314	27,463	25,727	20,692	12,656	7,126
	FY25	8,517	9,234	10,223	16,648	33,016	29,963	34,002	32,218	37,145	25,229	14,702	7,671
	FY24	7,169	6,670	10,119	17,968	32,940	34,058	34,879	37,369	44,888	26,124	14,814	8,118
White Tank		7,588	5,724										
	FY26	4,924	5,056	8,730	17,977	34,191	39,529	51,353	44,320	40,863	28,851	13,295	8,714
	FY25	4,285	5,302	7,123	15,727	33,197	31,583	36,753	38,496	48,457	27,904	15,262	7,814
	FY24	4,393	6,164	9,396	17,812	26,356	28,524	33,741	39,129	46,464	25,763	13,906	6,682
Hassayampa		338	312										
	FY26	329	439	667	1,306	1,535	1,155	2,041	1,830	1,908	2,512	1,157	352
	FY25	268	380	655	968	1,882	1,391	1,832	1,932	2,626	2,097	1,630	647
	FY24	339	411	795	1,133	1,752	1,536	1,461	1,951	2,716	2,375	1,238	471
Mountain Park Total		24,771	23,148	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	FY26	20,824	20,928	34,601	80,964	121,880	134,077	153,496	141,586	127,896	98,567	54,383	27,422
	FY25	20,194	24,788	34,952	71,531	132,777	127,269	151,987	145,017	169,971	107,281	55,604	26,908
	FY24	20,109	22,962	41,229	82,533	126,169	128,912	145,153	153,070	181,769	107,643	56,449	37,699
Lake Pleasant		135,366	105,934										
	FY26	134,178	110,214	61,499	54,832	49,605	38,971	49,980	61,483	126,092	132,541	167,394	153,696
	FY25	141,534	94,866	78,349	58,878	52,444	42,847	49,020	63,061	87,919	101,406	146,916	133,030
	FY24	146,522	76,963	81,319	73,010	47,229	37,638	42,195	62,353	95,518	101,975	146,615	157,420
DOC		514	50										
	FY26	180	248	267	571	404	2,863	356	1,048	801	2,193	1,031	427
	FY25	343	323	200	485	1,060	711	716	2,000	1,450	2,093	1,207	756
	FY24	50	80	97	796	496	856	452	847	1,389	2,087	1,878	960
Agua Fria		0	0										
	FY26	0	0	0	33	15	73	26	35	99	0	255	0
	FY25	38	0	0	24	79	67	77	0	77	160	84	40
	FY24	6	6	0	0	7	97	130	112	192	232	149	0
Lake Totals		135,880	105,984	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	FY26	134,358	110,462	61,766	55,436	50,024	41,907	50,362	62,566	126,992	134,734	168,680	154,123
	FY25	141,915	95,189	78,549	59,387	53,583	43,625	49,813	65,061	89,446	103,659	148,207	133,826
	FY24	146,578	77,049	81,416	73,806	47,732	38,591	42,777	63,312	97,099	104,294	148,642	158,380
System Total		160,651	129,132	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	FY26	155,182	131,390	96,367	136,400	171,904	175,984	203,858	204,152	254,888	233,301	223,063	181,545
	FY25	162,109	119,977	113,501	130,918	186,360	170,894	201,800	210,078	259,417	210,940	203,811	160,734
	FY24	166,687	100,011	122,645	156,339	173,901	167,503	187,930	216,382	278,868	211,937	205,091	196,079



FY26 BUDGET REPORT (PERIOD 2):

Dept	Dept Name	Fund	Fund Name	Approp Group	Approp Group Name	Revised Revenue	Actual Revenue	Revenue Variance	Revised Expenditures	Actual Expenditures	Expenditure Variance	Budgeted Structure Balance	Actual Structural Balance	Structural Balance Variance
D300	Parks and Rec	100	General	NRNP	NonRecr NonPrjt	\$0		\$0	(\$102,828)	\$0	(\$102,828)	\$102,828	\$0	(\$102,828)
D300	Parks and Rec	100	General	OPER	Operating	\$0		\$0	\$185,212	\$143,550	\$41,662	(\$185,212)	(\$143,550)	\$41,662
D300	Parks and Rec	225	Spr Cross Ranch	NRNP	NonRecr NonPrjt	\$0		\$0	\$9,091		\$9,091	(\$9,091)		\$9,091
D300	Parks and Rec	225	Spr Cross Ranch	OPER	Operating	\$47,970	\$20,063.37	(\$27,907)	\$47,933	\$45,067	\$2,866	\$37	(\$25,004)	(\$25,041)
D300	Parks and Rec	230	Parks&Rec Grant	NRNP	NonRecr NonPrjt	\$12,146		(\$12,146)	\$12,146		\$12,146	\$0		\$0
D300	Parks and Rec	239	Parks Souvenir	OPER	Operating	\$32,069	\$5,038.64	(\$27,030)	\$40,184	\$31,015	\$9,169	(\$8,115)	(\$25,977)	(\$17,862)
D300	Parks and Rec	240	Lk Plsnt Rc Svc	NRNP	NonRecr NonPrjt	\$0		\$0	\$210,910		\$210,910	(\$210,910)		\$210,910
D300	Parks and Rec	240	Lk Plsnt Rc Svc	OPER	Operating	\$515,253	\$857,614.28	\$342,361	\$742,560	\$746,179	(\$3,619)	(\$227,307)	\$111,436	\$338,743
D300	Parks and Rec	241	Parks Enhncmnt	NRNP	NonRecr NonPrjt	\$0		\$0	\$10,000		\$10,000	(\$10,000)		\$10,000
D300	Parks and Rec	241	Parks Enhncmnt	OPER	Operating	\$786,176	\$784,308.13	(\$1,868)	\$1,415,539	\$1,461,361	(\$45,822)	(\$629,363)	(\$677,052)	(\$47,689)
D300	Parks and Rec	243	Parks Donations	NRNP	NonRecr NonPrjt	\$0		\$0	\$18,181	\$2,000	\$16,181	(\$18,181)	(\$2,000)	\$16,181
D300	Parks and Rec	243	Parks Donations	OPER	Operating	\$3,505	\$5,078.33	\$1,573	\$3,468	\$1,332	\$2,137	\$37	\$3,747	\$3,710
D300	Parks and Rec	243	Parks Donations	WMD3	DaisyMtnTrls	\$0		\$0	\$2,273		\$2,273	(\$2,273)		\$2,273
D300	Parks and Rec	296	Coronavirus FRF	NRNP	NonRecr NonPrjt	\$79,045		(\$79,045)	\$79,045		\$79,045	\$0		\$0
Sum:						\$1,476,164	\$1,672,103	\$195,939	\$2,673,714	\$2,430,504	\$243,210	(\$1,197,550)	(\$758,401)	\$439,149

HUMAN RESOURCES:

Welcome/Promotions/Transfers:

- Jennifer Reecher – Lake Pleasant – Effective 8/17/2026
- Tanner Rotarius – Lake Pleasant – Effective 8/17/026
- Jason Vickers – Usery – Effective 8/24/2026

Farewells:

- Sylvia Perkins – Effective 8/10/2026

Transfers:

- Jimmy Gregson – Spur Cross Supervisor – Effective 8/24/2026
- Blake Spanier – Usery Supervisor – Effective 8/24/2026

Current Vacancies:

- Accounting Specialist – HQ
- Park Custodian – Lake Pleasant
- Park Office Assistant Specialized – Estrella
- Park Supervisor – Estrella
- Park Supervisor – Cave Creek

PARK OPERATIONS DIVISION:

NATURAL RESOURCES:

- Natural Resource staff have been working diligently to prepare for the upcoming Desert Defender Season, wrap up FY2026 wildlife data, complete the FY26 management summary, and organize native seed for the upcoming seed pellet workshops and seed toss events.
- Saguaro cacti were successfully grown in the greenhouse; we are hopeful that 150+ saguaros will survive the summer and will be transplanted into individual pots within the next 2 months.



saguaro cacti sprouts

VOLUNTEERS:

- Volunteers have been assigned their online safety training for FY27. 69 volunteers have completed their training so far.
- The Volunteer Coordinator recently held a meeting with the Volunteer Manager from Arizona State Parks. They exchanged ideas and discussed best practices in volunteer management.

TOTAL Volunteer Hours, by month	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	YTD Total
FY27 - All Hours	5,351	3,804	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9,155
FY26 - All Hours	3,343	3,396	4,395	7,840	11,072	12,486	13,492	13,251	12,721	7,993	4,834	4,834	6,739
FY25 - All Hours	3,701	3,338	4,187	6,273	10,495	11,605	12,687	11,011	12,437	9,070	5,298	3,542	7,039

Financial Impact of Volunteers, by Month	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	YTD Total
FY27 Financial Impact	\$193,385	\$137,477	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$330,862
FY26 Financial Impact	\$111,957	\$113,732	\$147,189	\$262,562	\$370,801	\$418,156	\$451,847	\$443,776	\$426,026	\$267,686	\$161,891	\$161,891	\$225,689
FY25 Financial Impact	\$123,946	\$111,790	\$140,223	\$210,083	\$351,478	\$388,651	\$424,888	\$368,758	\$416,515	\$303,754	\$177,430	\$118,622	\$235,736

TRAILS:

Maricopa Trail:

- Installed five of the new eco-counters Pyro-Box (trail use counters) at Maricopa Regional Trail System (MRTS) gates in Cave Creek (Segment 16), Estrella (Segments 33 and 35), Usery (Segment 27), and White Tank (Segment 35). Data is being collected and will be assessed for accuracy within the next month for fine-tuning and adjustments with the vendor. A few more will be installed in September to cover every MRTS gate at the parks.





Estrella Mountain Regional Park – Crossover Trail / MRTS Segment 33

Park Trails

- Regular Maintenance and response to weather events on various trails in Estrella and McDowell.
- Trails Division is continuing its support for the mowing and general upkeep at the Paradise Valley Golf Center.

DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS:

White Tank

- Wildlife Trailhead – Phase 1 was completed in August. Phase 1 included the restroom building and underground utilities. Phase 2 has started and includes all concrete sidewalks, curbs, and the asphalt parking lot.



DESERT OUTDOOR CENTER (DOC) AT LAKE PLEASANT:

Projects:

- A Scout finished installation of solar pump for new DOC wildlife pond in former ethnobotany garden. The trail camera has already recorded 25+ species visiting the water feature.

Maintenance:

- Lightning struck one of the buildings, setting off alarms in the dormitories; diagnostics and repairs are pending.

Events:



- No ranger programming at DOC.
- In parks, the rangers did 112 programs, 24 of which were canceled due to extreme heat, leaving 88 programs for 342 guests.

HASSAYAMPA RIVER PRESERVE:

Projects:

- Meeting on site with contractors and HQ staff to rehabilitate the historic Spring House here at the Preserve.
- Field visit with Maricopa County Realty Department and The Nature Conservancy (TNC) to observe and identify constructed encroachments onto Preserve lands from an adjacent landowner. TNC intends to give these small parcels to the adjacent landowner.

Events:

- Bug Night with Arizona State University was held at the Preserve on 8/20.

SPUR CROSS RANCH CONSERVATION AREA:

Events:

- New Park Supervisor Jimmy Gregson has fully transitioned into his role at Spur Cross and has been meeting with local community partners.

USERY MOUNTAIN REGIONAL PARK:

Events:

- Ranger Olivia and staff celebrated Desert Tortoise Al's 28th Birthday on August 15th. This was listed as a park/ranger program on social media. Over 25 guests visited the Nature Center to celebrate with Al. Part of the celebration was watching Al eat his vegetable pie, and the snakes celebrated by eating rodents.