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MEMORANDUM

Date: August 18, 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 June and July 2026.

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR:

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS AGENDA ITEMS:

Date/Status	Tracking Number	Summary
05/20/2026 APPROVED	C-06-26-327-X-00	DONATIONS PARKS AND RECREATION APRIL 2026: In accordance with County Policy A2508, accept the monthly donation report received from Parks and Recreation for April 2026, for a cash value of \$1,457.69.
06/24/2026 APPROVED	C-06-26-342-X-00	DONATIONS PARKS AND RECREATION FOR MAY 2026: In accordance with County Policy A2508, accept the monthly donation report received from Parks and Recreation for May 2026, for a cash value of \$1,471.5.
06/24/2026 APPROVED	C-30-26-009-X-00	FY2026 APPROPRIATION TRANSFER WITHIN THE COUNTY IMPROVEMENTS FUND (445) Pursuant to A.R.S §42-17106(B), approve the following FY 2026 appropriation adjustments: 1. Increase the Non-Departmental (D470) General Fund County Improvements Fund (445) Parks Day Use White Tank (PDWT) expenditure budget by \$44,047. 2. Decrease the Non-Departmental (D470) General Fund County Improvements Fund (445) White Tank Competitive Track Improvements (PWTC) expenditure budget by \$44,047. This budget adjustment is requested to address increased costs for supplies required to complete the PDWT project. Actual supply expenditures have exceeded original budget estimates due to higher material costs and additional supply needs identified during project implementation. The \$44,047 adjustment from project PWTC to project PDWT will provide sufficient



		funding to cover the increased supply costs and ensure the timely completion of the project without interruption. The requested adjustment does not increase the overall departmental budget and is a reallocation of existing project funds to meet current operational needs. These actions will have a net-zero impact on the County-wide budget and do not alter the budget-constraining the expenditure of local revenues duly adopted by the Board pursuant to A.R.S. §42-17105.
07/15/2026 APPROVED	C-06-27-013-X-00	DONATION - PARKS AND RECREATION - JUNE 2026 – In accordance with County Policy A2508, accept the monthly donation report received from Parks and Recreation for June 2026, for a cash value of \$1040.93.

ADMINISTRATION/FINANCE DIVISION:

PARKS VISITOR ATTENDANCE REPORT (FY26 THROUGH JULY):

	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											
	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											
	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											
	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											
	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											
	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											
	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											
	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





MARICOPA COUNTY

PARKS & RECREATION

Hassayampa	338											
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
Lake Pleasant	135,366											
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											
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											
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
System Total	160,651											
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 XX):

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 NonPrt	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$952,934.00	\$0.00	\$952,934.00	-\$952,934.00	\$0.00	\$952,934.00
D300	Parks and Rec	100	General	OPER	Operating	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,306,905.00	\$71,775.00	\$1,235,130.00	-\$1,306,905.00	-\$71,775.00	\$1,235,130.00
D300	Parks and Rec	225	Spr Cross Ranch	NRNP	NonRecr NonPrt	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$100,000.00	\$0.00	\$100,000.00	-\$100,000.00	\$0.00	\$100,000.00
D300	Parks and Rec	239	Parks Souvenir	OPER	Operating	\$346,912.00	\$75.00	-\$346,837.00	\$346,912.00	\$22,314.50	\$324,597.50	\$0.00	-\$22,239.50	-\$22,239.50
D300	Parks and Rec	230	Parks&Rec Grant	NRNP	NonRecr NonPrt	\$133,610.00	\$0.00	-\$133,610.00	\$133,610.00	\$0.00	\$133,610.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
D300	Parks and Rec	239	Parks Souvenir	OPER	Operating	\$350,000.00	\$276.16	-\$349,723.84	\$350,000.00	\$9,566.39	\$340,433.61	\$0.00	-\$9,290.23	-\$9,290.23
D300	Parks and Rec	240	Lk Plsnt Rc Svc	NRNP	NonRecr NonPrt	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,320,000.00	\$0.00	\$2,320,000.00	-\$2,320,000.00	\$0.00	\$2,320,000.00
D300	Parks and Rec	240	Lk Plsnt Rc Svc	OPER	Operating	\$4,676,139.00	\$99,163.11	-\$4,576,975.89	\$4,676,139.00	\$354,437.77	\$4,321,701.23	\$0.00	-\$255,274.66	-\$255,274.66
D300	Parks and Rec	241	Parks Enhncmnt	NRNP	NonRecr NonPrt	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$110,000.00	\$0.00	\$110,000.00	-\$110,000.00	\$0.00	\$110,000.00
D300	Parks and Rec	241	Parks Enhncmnt	OPER	Operating	\$8,394,122.00	\$41,379.66	-\$8,352,742.34	\$8,394,122.00	\$753,084.01	\$7,641,037.99	\$0.00	-\$711,704.35	-\$711,704.35
D300	Parks and Rec	243	Parks Donations	NRNP	NonRecr NonPrt	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$200,000.00	\$0.00	\$200,000.00	-\$200,000.00	\$0.00	\$200,000.00
D300	Parks and Rec	243	Parks Donations	OPER	Operating	\$38,147.00	\$42.00	-\$38,105.00	\$38,147.00	\$0.00	\$38,147.00	\$0.00	\$42.00	\$42.00
D300	Parks and Rec	243	Parks Donations	WMD3	DaisyMtnTrls	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$25,000.00	\$0.00	\$25,000.00	-\$25,000.00	\$0.00	\$25,000.00
D300	Parks and Rec	296	Coronavirus FRF	NRNP	NonRecr NonPrt	\$1,354,286.00	\$0.00	-\$1,354,286.00	\$1,354,286.00	\$0.00	\$1,354,286.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Sum:						\$15,293,216.00	\$140,935.93	-\$15,152,280.07	\$20,308,055.00	\$1,211,177.67	\$19,096,877.33	-\$5,014,839.00	-\$1,070,241.74	\$3,944,597.26

HUMAN RESOURCES:

Welcome/Promotions/Transfers:

- Tevin Murdock – Lake Pleasant – Effective 6/8/2026
- Wyatt Eitreim – Lake Pleasant – Effective 6/1/2026
- David Murray – San Tan – Effective 6/22/2026
- Marilu Garcia – Parks Planner Sr./HQ – Effective 6/22/2026

Farewells:

- Jimmy Amaya - Effective 6/1/2026
- Sierra Miller -Effective 6/2/2026
- Kevin Smith - Effective 6/5/2026
- Tammy Orleans – Effective 7/11/2026
- Jason Booth – Effective 7/25/2026



Transfers:

- Blake Spanier – Cave Creek to Usery - Effective 6/8/2026
- Jimmy Gregson – Usery to Spur Cross - Effective 6/8/2026
- Adrian Rodriguez – Lake Pleasant to Estrella – Effective 6/22/2026
- Sarah Roberts - Estrella to White Tank – Effective 6/22/2026

Current Vacancies:

- Contact Station Assistant (2 Vacancies) – Lake Pleasant
- Park Custodian – Usery
- P/T Contact Station Assistant – Estrella
- Administrative Staff Supervisor – Lake Pleasant
- Park Office Assistant Specialized – Hassayampa
- Park Supervisor – Estrella
- Park Supervisor – Cave Creek

PARK OPERATIONS DIVISION:

NATURAL RESOURCES:

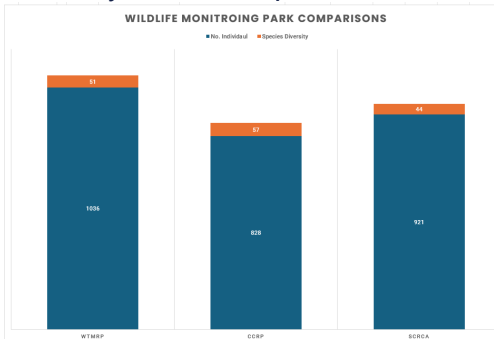
- Through a collaborative effort between the Natural Resources Desert Defender Program, Interpretive Rangers, Desert Defender Stewards, and volunteers, more than 63 invasive plant removal events were held across seven regional parks and preserves during the spring season (January–April).
- Participants contributed more than 1,000 hours, removing more than 400,000 invasive plants and totaling over 7,700 pounds of biomass. Restoration efforts at Cave Creek Regional Park, Estrella Mountain Regional Park, Hassayampa River Preserve, McDowell Mountain Regional Park, San Tan Mountain Regional Park, Spur Cross Ranch Conservation Area, Usery Mountain Regional Park, and White Tank Mountain Regional Park improved habitat quality and supported native desert ecosystems.



- Planning is underway for the upcoming fiscal year's Desert Defender program, invasive species treatments, and wildlife monitoring at Usery Mountain Regional Park and McDowell Mountain Regional Park.
- Preparations are underway for the fall seed pellet workshop and seed toss events.



- With support from interns and volunteers, Natural Resources staff monitored wildlife at 56 locations across three parks from September 2025 through May 2026 using trail cameras. Each park was equipped with six cameras, which were relocated every 3–4 weeks to maximize coverage.
 - The survey documented 2,785 wildlife observations representing 85 species. When comparing the three parks using only observations identified to the genus/species level, the results included:
 - White Tank Mountain Regional Park (MRP): 1,160 individuals representing 56 species
 - Cave Creek Regional Park (RP): 991 individuals representing 63 species
 - Spur Cross Ranch Conservation Area (RCA): 960 individuals representing 49 species
- Once the review and identification for the FY2026 Wildlife Monitoring are complete, staff will work with Arizona State University to conduct statistical analysis of the reported results.



- This spring, the Natural Resources team propagated more than 130 native plants representing over 30 species. These plants were installed in May and June at Cave Creek Regional Park, Hassayampa River Preserve, White Tank Mountain Regional Park, and Estrella Mountain Regional Park, at nature center landscapes and pollinator gardens.
- Natural Resource staff are collaborating with Arizona State University (ASU) to analyze the data and compare wildlife communities in burned versus unburned habitats, as well as wash versus upland areas, to determine whether significant differences exist between these habitat types.

VOLUNTEERS:

June

- More than 60 Target employees participated in a cleanup at Lake Pleasant on June 1. This marks the third consecutive year Target has held a service project at the Lake.
- Trail Ambassadors continue to be added to the program. There are currently 43 active Trail Ambassadors.

July

- FY26 Volunteer Hours total 99,657, the highest on record since we began keeping records 12 years ago.
- FY26 financial impact of \$3,337,513 also sets a record high.
- 165 service events were held in FY26, the most in a single year.
- 8317 hours were logged across service events in FY26.



TOTAL Volunteer Hours, by month	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	YTD Total
FY27 - All Hours	5,351	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5,351
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	3,343
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	3,701

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	\$289	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$193,385
FY26 Financial Impact	\$111,957	\$113,382	\$147,189	\$162,562	\$370,801	\$418,156	\$451,847	\$443,776	\$426,026	\$267,686	\$161,891	\$161,891	\$111,957
FY25 Financial Impact	\$123,946	\$111,790	\$140,223	\$10,083	\$351,478	\$388,651	\$424,888	\$368,758	\$416,515	\$303,754	\$177,430	\$118,622	\$123,946

Total Volunteer Hours	
Fiscal Year	YTD Hours
FY16	96,526
FY17	95,536
FY18	99,378
FY19	76,935
FY20	89,750
FY21	95,170
FY22	97,892
FY23	98,035
FY24	94,900
FY25	93,644
FY26	99,657

TRADES:

June

- 40 Arizona 811 tickets requested.
- 13 Work orders completed.
- At Estrella, a water service line replacement was completed at the golf course.
- At Cave Creek, upgrades were done on the exterior lighting at the Nature Center.

July

- 35 Arizona 811 tickets requested.
- 16 of 19 Work orders completed.
- At Lake Pleasant, three failed isolation water valves were removed and replaced, and a water leak on Scute Loop was repaired.

TRAILS:

June

- In collaboration with the Trades crew, Trails has worked to resolve several issues at Paradise Valley Golf Course. Crews continued trimming and removing branches and overgrowth along the boundary fences, mowing regularly, and repairing the irrigation system.

July

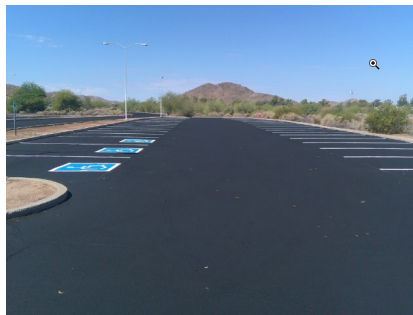


- The trails team continued to support Paradise Valley Golf Course operations through July. In addition to mowing, more than a dozen irrigation heads were replaced, and multiple lines and sprinkler heads were repaired.

DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS:

ESTRELLA:

- All parking lots, including the maintenance compound, were repaved, resurfaced, and restriped in June.



WHITE TANK:

- Willow Campground drinking fountain was the last of 13 drinking fountains purchased and installed using American Rescue Plan Act funding received in 2024.



- Willow/Scout Camp septic repair project involved replacing all septic plumbing under both restrooms and extending it to the inlet side of the septic tanks. At Willow, the leach lines on the septic tank's discharge side were replaced. At Scout Camp, the main line domestic water valve was replaced.





- The Trailhead Staging Capital Improvement Project is fully underway. This project will expand the existing parking area's footprint, pave approximately half of the lot, install a new flushing restroom, and realign the entrance to connect directly to Waterfall Canyon Road, creating a T-intersection with the main road. The project is anticipated to be completed in mid-to-late September.



CAVE CREEK REGIONAL PARK:

Projects:

- Trades completed LED upgrades to the Nature Center's exterior lighting.

DESERT OUTDOOR CENTER (DOC) AT LAKE PLEASANT:

Programming:

June

- Interpretive Rangers scheduled 94 park programs with a total of 376 visitors.

July

- 105 Park programs with a total of 455 visitors.
- Fourteen programs were canceled due to the summer heat.
- Interpretive Rangers hosted a three-day summer camp at Hassayampa River Preserve that included 20 children.



Maintenance:

- Emergency repairs were completed on a clogged pipe linking the macerator to the Evapotranspiration Bed.

Events:

- The DOC hosted an overnight school retreat for high school students, a high school graduation party, a wedding, an overnight stay for Arizona Game and Fish Department researchers, and a 4-day girls' church retreat.

HASSAYAMPA RIVER PRESERVE

Conservation:

June

- Park Supervisor is working with arborists to complete a comprehensive tree inventory to better understand riparian forest health issues at the Preserve.
- Conversations continue with The Nature Conservancy and the Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management regarding fence replacement and the creation of defensible space for wildfire mitigation.

July

- In mid-July, a flood knocked out both trail bridges and flooded two of the Preserve's trails. Volunteers and Park Rangers replaced the bridges, and both trails reopened once the water receded.
- A meeting was held with The Nature Conservancy and the Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management to determine access routes for the upcoming fence replacement and vegetation management project.

LAKE PLEASANT REGIONAL PARK:

Events:

July

- Lake Pleasant partnered with the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary and the Arizona Game and Fish Department to provide water safety education and outreach. Activities included onshore and on-water safety education and vessel safety inspections.
- 12 Students earned their Arizona Boater Education Certification at the Discovery Center through a partnership among Maricopa County Parks and Recreation, Interpretive Rangers, and the Arizona Game and Fish Department.

Conservation:

- Representatives from the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and Maricopa County Parks and Recreation met to discuss GPS points for boundary fencing of the North Conservation Area, project strategy, and stakeholder recommendations for future planning.

MCDOWELL MOUNTAIN REGIONAL PARK:

Projects:

- Maricopa County Department of Transportation (MCDOT) has agreed to grade the event parking areas.



- Capital Improvement Projects include boring power lines to provide additional power to the new campground sites.
- Contractor AJP will repair South Loop campground sites requiring dirt work. There is no anticipated start date yet.

SAN TAN MOUNTAIN REGIONAL PARK:

Projects:

- The County's Enterprise Technology and Innovation Department (ETI) conducted an on-site walk-through to plan potential technology upgrades, including satellite-based internet service at the Goldmine entrance.
- San Tan Supervisor has begun implementing the system-wide playground inspection program. Preliminary site visits include White Tank, Utery, and McDowell.

Maintenance:

- Maintenance has been focused on the area around the Nature Center off Phillips Road, repairing plumbing, irrigation, and the pond inside the tortoise enclosure.

USERY MOUNTAIN REGIONAL PARK:

Volunteers:

- Central Arizona Council on Developmental Disabilities (CACDD) continues to volunteer at Utery every Thursday, completing more than 40 hours of community service in May.
- Probationers from Maricopa County Adult Probation completed 45 hours of community service at the park.

