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MEMORANDUM

Date: January 20, 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 November and December 2025.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS AGENDA ITEMS:

Date/Status	Tracking Number	Summary
12/10/2025 Approved	C-30-26-007-X-00	PROPOSED REVISIONS OF PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT USER FEE SCHEDULE: Adjust user fees effective on January 1, 2026, and subsequently on January 1, 2027, and January 1, 2028, and authorize adjustments to the FY 2026 budget, in accordance with A.R.S. §42-17106 (B).
12/10/2025 Approved	C-06-26-180-X-00	REAPPOINTMENT TO THE PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE: Approve the reappointment of Shelby Scharbach to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee representing Supervisorial District 1. The reappointment will be effective January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2027.
12/10/2025 Approved	C-30-26-003-X-00	AMENDMENT TO COMMUNICATION SITE USE MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT WITH SBA TOWERS IV, LLC AT ESTRELLA MOUNTAIN REGIONAL PARK. Approve and execute an Amendment One and a Consent Request to the Communication Site Use Management Agreement entered between Maricopa County and SBA Towers IV, LLC, dated January 11, 2007.
12/10/2025 Approved	C-30-26-008-X-00	GRANT FUNDS FROM THE ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET ADJUSTMENT. Approve and accept the receipt of grant funds from the Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management (DFFM), for hazardous vegetation mitigation within McDowell Mountain Regional Park, in the amount not to exceed \$188,500.

12/10/2025	C-30-26-005-X-00	CONTINUATION OF EMPLOYEE ANNUAL PASS DISCOUNT PROGRAM AND ADOPTION OF NEW DISCOUNT RATES FOR FY26-FY28. Approve the continuation of the Maricopa County employee discount program for the purchase of the Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Individual Pass and adopt the new Employee Annual Pass Discount Rates for Fiscal Years 2026-2028.
12/10/2025	C-30-26-004-X-00	MOU WITH MARICOPA COUNTY JUVENILE PROBATION DEPARTMENT. Approve and execute a Memorandum of Understanding between Maricopa County, through the Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department, and the Maricopa County Juvenile Probation Department to support youth community services through the Juvenile Community Offender Restitution and Public Service at regional parks.
12/10/2025	C-30-20-013-M-01	TERMINATION OF USE MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT WITH SOUTHWEST WILDLIFE CONSERVATION CENTER. Maricopa County approved the termination of a non-financial Use Management Agreement with the Southwest Wildlife Conservation Center for a proposed nature and wildlife conservation center at McDowell Mountain Regional Park.

ADMINISTRATION/FINANCE DIVISION:
PARKS VISITOR ATTENDANCE REPORT (FY26 THROUGH DECEMBER):

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
FY23	Sep-24	Aug-22	Sep-22	Oct-22	Nov-22	Dec-22	Jan-23	Feb-23	Mar-23	Apr-23	May-23	Jun-23
Cave Creek	1,269	1,643	1,750	5,111	11,972	11,957						
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
FY23	1,373	2,028	2,551	8,499	13,383	13,384	14,534	15,537	19,650	14,181	6,299	2,727
Estrella	945	867	3,848	5,302	8,704	10,102						
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
FY23	2,342	2,644	3,346	6,640	8,382	8,022	12,165	16,631	18,998	14,597	5,346	4,277
McDowell Mtn	1,526	1,493	3,041	19,421	13,427	12,041						
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	4,055	3,869	6,610	10,988	20,547	36,296						
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
FY23	4,215	6,029	7,407	14,861	23,586	20,889	26,361	25,488	30,452	18,996	9,836	6,486
Spur Cross	252	231	602	1,540	3,631	3,797						
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
FY23	180	316	488	1,976	4,789	3,578	6,430	6,477	8,221	4,900	1,139	586
Usery Mtn Park	7,524	7,330	9,353	19,319	28,868	25,729						
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
FY23	6,500	6,544	7,043	16,879	26,760	24,845	29,889	29,695	44,722	29,472	13,158	8,231
White Tank	4,924	5,056	8,730	17,977	39,221	45,228						
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
FY23	7,264	8,845	9,345	20,459	27,457	26,239	38,467	39,100	50,150	29,236	13,361	8,585
Hassayampa	329	439	667	1,306	1,459	1,914						
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
FY23	463	546	671	1,202	1,500	912	1,535	1,610	2,573	2,366	1,398	840
Lake Pleasant	134,178	110,214	61,499	54,832	53,434	39,529						
FY25	141,534	94,866	78,349	58,878	52,444	42,847	49,020	63,061	87,919	101,406	146,976	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
FY23	146,746	87,426	95,022	78,576	56,935	48,903	55,380	64,152	92,599	146,533	142,552	153,447
DOC	180	248	267	571	404	2,806						
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
FY23	183	225	151	639	972	1,302	875	493	2,516	1,618	1,855	402
Agua Fria	0	0	0	33	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
FY23	0	113	0	20	92	32	39	41	62	342	0	0
System Total	155,182	131,390	96,367	136,400	181,667	189,399	0	0	0	0	0	0
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
FY23	170,951	116,561	129,816	163,612	181,990	165,383	202,876	216,040	292,662	277,955	200,691	187,999

FY26 BUDGET REPORT (PERIOD 6):

Report ID: FIN-BA-MC010				Budget to Actual by Department, Fund and Appropriation Unit Group							Page 1 of 1			
				Fiscal Year: 2026 Period: 6										
Dept	Dept Name	Fund	Fund Name	Approp Group	Approp Group Name	Revised Revenue	Actual Revenue	Revenue Variance	Revised Expenditure	Actual Expenditure	Expenditure Variance	Budgeted Structure Balance	Actual Structural Balance	Structural Balance Variance
D300	Parks and Rec	100	General	NRNP	NonRecr NonPrjt	\$0	\$0	\$200,002	\$41,052	\$158,951	(\$200,002)	(\$41,052)	\$158,951	
D300	Parks and Rec	100	General	OPER	Operating	\$0	\$0	\$653,448	\$578,198	\$75,250	(\$653,448)	(\$578,198)	\$75,250	
D300	Parks and Rec	225	Spr Cross Ranch	NRNP	NonRecr NonPrjt	\$0	\$0	\$25,002	\$25,002	\$0	(\$25,002)	\$0	\$25,002	
D300	Parks and Rec	230	Parks&Rec Grant	NRNP	NonRecr NonPrjt	\$147,234	\$85,972.65	(\$61,261)	\$174,343	\$146,103	\$28,240	(\$27,109)	(\$60,130)	(\$33,021)
D300	Parks and Rec	239	Parks Souvenir	OPER	Operating	\$188,500	(\$188,500)	\$188,500	\$188,500	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
D300	Parks and Rec	240	Lk Plsnt Rc Svc	NRNP	NonRecr NonPrjt	\$124,630	\$64,385.19	(\$60,245)	\$175,267	\$143,215	\$32,052	(\$50,637)	(\$78,830)	(\$28,193)
D300	Parks and Rec	240	Lk Plsnt Rc Svc	OPER	Operating	\$0	\$0	\$865,002	\$112,166	\$752,836	(\$865,002)	(\$112,166)	\$752,836	
D300	Parks and Rec	241	Parks Enhncmnt	NRNP	NonRecr NonPrjt	\$2,063,791	\$1,709,351.78	(\$354,439)	\$2,325,714	\$2,308,569	\$17,145	(\$261,923)	(\$599,217)	(\$337,294)
D300	Parks and Rec	241	Parks Enhncmnt	OPER	Operating	\$4,015,109	\$2,335,611.84	(\$1,679,497)	\$4,196,809	\$3,962,185	\$234,624	(\$418,998)	(\$19,646)	\$399,353
D300	Parks and Rec	243	Parks Donations	OPER	Operating	\$19,074	\$18,335.82	(\$738)	\$19,074	\$9,421	\$9,654	\$0	\$8,915	\$8,915
D300	Parks and Rec	243	Parks Donations	WMD3	DaisyMtnTrls	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$12,498	\$12,498	\$0	(\$12,498)	\$0	\$12,498
D300	Parks and Rec	296	Coronavirus FRF	NRNP	NonRecr NonPrjt	\$7,460,484	\$10,875,071.07	\$3,414,587	\$7,460,484	\$10,875,071	(\$3,414,587)	\$0	\$0	\$0
Sum:						\$14,018,822	\$15,088,728	\$1,069,906	\$16,715,141	\$18,195,623	(\$1,480,482)	(\$2,696,319)	(\$3,106,895)	(\$410,576)

HUMAN RESOURCES:

Welcome/Promotions/Transfers:

- Nicole Molina – Contact Station Assistant – 11/18/2025
- Sarah Roberts – Contact Station Assistant – 11/21/2025
- Peter Marsala – Contact Station Assistant – 12/29/2025
- Candi Jones, Promotion – Executive Assistant – 11/24/2025

Farewells:

- Adele Teti – Contact Station Assistant – 11/11/2025
- Bruce Jean – Navigational Aide Technician – 11/15/2025
- Richard Plautz – Park Supervisor – 12/19/2025

Vacancies:

- Park Development Superintendent
- Park Maintenance Worker – McDowell
- Accounting Specialist
- Contact Station Assistant (2 positions) – Lake Pleasant
- Park Office Assistant Specialized – Cave Creek
- Trails Specialist
- Park Supervisor – Cave Creek
- Navigational Aide Technician
- Park Planner Senior



PARK OPERATIONS DIVISION:

NATURAL RESOURCES:

- **Cave Creek:**

- The Green House, next to the Native Seed Garden, is complete. Tables and solar panels are being installed, and pavers are added for a walkway. Seed planting starts in January 2026.



- **Resource Management:**

- Fall Maricopa County Leadership & Education Advancing Public Service (MCLEAPS) intern and trail cam program was a success and completed. Preparations have begun for the Spring 2026 MCLEAPS intern and the next three wildlife trail camera locations.

VOLUNTEERS:

- **Overall Updates/Projects:**

- The Maricopa Trail & Park Foundation and staff joined forces to develop a formal training program for our Trail Ambassador Program. We now potentially have 25 new Trail Ambassadors.
- In-person volunteer safety training was held by the Volunteer Coordinator at seven parks.

- **Lake Pleasant:**

- December 6th: Sixty employees completed a shoreline clean-up - 660 pounds of trash were removed.

Hours (FY26 through December)

TOTAL Volunteer Hours, by month	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	YTD Total
FY26 - All Hours	3,343	3,396	4,395	7,840	11,072	12,486	32	0	0	0	0	0	42,564
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	39,599
FY24 - All Hours	3,759	4,148	4,158	7,290	10,170	11,379	12,796	11,492	12,023	7,957	5,319	4,409	40,904

Financial Impact of Volunteers, by Month	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	YTD Total
FY26 Financial Impact	\$111,957	\$113,732	\$147,189	\$262,562	\$370,801	\$418,156	\$1,072	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,425,468
FY25 Financial Impact	\$123,946	\$111,790	\$140,223	\$210,083	\$351,478	\$388,651	\$424,888	\$368,758	\$416,515	\$13,754	\$177,430	\$118,622	\$1,326,171
FY24 Financial Impact	\$119,536	\$131,906	\$132,224	\$231,822	\$323,406	\$361,852	\$406,913	\$365,446	\$382,331	\$253,033	\$169,144	\$140,206	\$1,300,747

TRADES:

NOVEMBER

- Completed 48 Arizona 811 ticket requests.
- Completed 20 work order requests.
- Cave Creek - Greenhouse project: 80% of assembly complete

DECEMBER

- Completed 55 Arizona 811 ticket requests.
- Completed 23 work order requests.
- Cave Creek - Greenhouse project: 100% complete
- Lake Pleasant - Completed North Entry Station water valve repair.

TRAILS:

Maricopa Trail

- **Segment 22:** South from the Tonto Trailhead to the Granite Mountain Trailhead - 3.4 miles had a washed-out, rutted trail from the rain, repaired by heavy equipment and hand work.
- **Segment 16:** Responded to users' reports of unauthorized motor-vehicle use on the trail. Inspected the trail near the Anthem Trailhead and installed additional signs.
- **Training:** Trails Team, along with the Maricopa Trail & Parks Foundation, presented four Introduction to Trails maintenance classes to more than 70 participants, as part of the Trails Ambassador Program.

DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS:

- **Lake Pleasant:**
 - Installed two new chilled water drinking fountains (one at the Cottonwood Restroom and the other at the Pipeline South Restroom).
- **San Tan:**
 - Goldmine Trailhead
 - Host site canopies are complete. Final utility connections and inspections should finish by the end of January, with the certificate of occupancy due by mid-February. The grand opening date is pending final inspections and certifications.



ADOBE MOUNTAIN REGIONAL PARK:

- MCDOT performed work on the roadways' shoulders to improve drainage following the recent storms.
- A badger was spotted digging near the model railroad concessionaire's site.



CAVE CREEK REGIONAL PARK:

- **Events**
 - November 8: C4 Mountain Bike race had 205 participants, including parts of Spur Cross Ranch Conservation Area.

DESERT OUTDOOR CENTER AT LAKE PLEASANT:

- **Center Programming**
 - November: Twelve schools with 1,161 students.
 - December: Nine schools with 899 students.
- **Park Programming**
 - November: 94 park programs with 1,138 attendees in the parks.
 - December: 86 park programs with 871 participants.
- **Facility Usage**
 - November: Hosted two weddings and two special events, including Arizona Game & Fish's Wildlife Management Division Awards Banquet.
 - December: Hosted two weddings, an award banquet, a research meeting, and a Girl Scout Troop.
- **Projects/Maintenance**
 - JCI completed the final components of the chiller control system upgrades and trained staff on how to use the new system.

ESTRELLA MOUNTAIN REGIONAL PARK:

- **Events**
 - November 15: Majestic Car Club annual picnic with over 300 cars.
 - November 21-23: Aravaipa Fat Ox turf run - 175 participants.
 - December 20: Racetimers Coldwater Tumble - 186 participants.
 - December 23: Annual Christmas Bird Count successfully completed.
- **Projects**
 - Campground:
 - November: Electrical boxes were put in at all sites. Paving began at the end of November.
 - December: Host sites and large ramadas completed. Paved roads and parking lots.

HASSAYAMPA RIVER PRESERVE:

- **Projects**
 - November:
 - Heavy rain washed out fences and bridges; bridges were salvaged, the southern fence was rebuilt, and work started on the northern fence.
 - Mesquite Meander, Lion's Trail, Lykes Lookout, and River Ramble trails closed due to heavy rain damage and were repaired and reopened in early December.
- **Events**
 - December 11: Hosted a multi-agency meeting on fire fuels reduction along the Hassayampa corridor.



- December 13: Welcomed 60+ students training for the Arizona State Envirothon forestry and wildlife workshop.

LAKE PLEASANT REGIONAL PARK:

- **Event**
 - November 1: Annual Open House at Discovery Center/100 Mile Kick Off Event. Over 200 participated in meet-and-greets with Lake concessionaires, conservation, and law enforcement agencies.
- **Operations**
 - November 14: Agua Fria Conservation Area officially opened for the Winter/Spring season on Friday through Sunday from 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

SPUR CROSS RANCH CONSERVATION AREA:

- **November**
 - Service volunteers completed repairs to flood-damaged sections of the Spur Cross Trail.
 - Discussions occurred about renovating the trail connecting the main parking area to Jewel of the Creek Preserve.
 - November 22-23: Spur Cross received 1.69 inches of rain, raising Cave Creek flows, washing out bridges, knocking down saguaros, and forcing staff to relocate on the trail. Flows were reduced to safe levels, and bridges were replaced on November 26.
- **Events**
 - December 11: The Sun City Hiking Club did its annual work project, removing vegetation encroaching on parking blocks and around the parking area's perimeter.
 - December 13: About 325 people participated in the Luminaria Walk, walking from the parking area to the Solar Oasis and back, guided by 466 battery-powered luminaria bags. 18 volunteers helped organize the event.



USERY MOUNTAIN REGIONAL PARK:

- **Volunteers**

- Tonto Trail Tamers have been performing weekly trail maintenance on the Pass Mountain Trail.



WHITE TANK MOUNTAIN REGIONAL PARK:

- **Events**

- November 29: Surprise 4-H Group of 30 participants volunteered a total of 90 service hours to clean ramadas and trails after the busy Thanksgiving weekend.

