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www.maricopa.gov/parks

MEMORANDUM

Date: May 19, 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 March and April 2026.

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR:

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS AGENDA ITEMS:

Date/Status	Tracking Number	Summary
3/25/2006	C-06-26-270-X-00	DONATIONS PARKS AND RECREATION FOR DECEMBER 2025 In accordance with County Policy A2508, accept the monthly donation report received from Parks and Recreation for December 2025, for a cash value of \$2,807.39.
4/8/2026	C-06-26-289-X-00	DONATIONS PARKS AND RECREATION FOR JANUARY 2026 In accordance with County Policy A2508, accept the monthly donation report received from Parks and Recreation for January 2026, for a cash value of \$3,599.13.
4/22/2026	C-06-26-301-X-00	DONATIONS PARKS AND RECREATION FOR FEBRUARY AND MARCH 2026 In accordance with County Policy A2508, accept the monthly donation report received from Parks and Recreation for February 2026, for a cash value of \$2,730.25, and for March 2026, for a cash value of \$2,004.38



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

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	9,963	9,283	8,353	5,909		
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	8,483	9,150	7,973	6,289		
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	9,530	10,767	7,926	4,132		
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	14,689	11,409	8,012	7,188		
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	3,596	3,740	4,420	4,411	3,210	2,338		
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	18,309	16,119	12,838	8,718		
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	35,633	28,915	23,769	16,790		
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	1,399	1,502	1,477	1,335	1,398	1,594		
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	43,135	49,567	98,611	101,835		
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
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	347	1,168	1,501	2,148		
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	0	0	38	29	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	181,572	188,930	145,986	142,162	173,620	156,941	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 XX):

Report ID:		FIN-BA-MC010		Budget to Actual		Page 1 of 1								
Run Date:		05/08/2026		by Department, Fund and Appropriation Unit Group										
Run Time:		6:43:40 AM		Fiscal Year: 2026		Period: 10								
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 Variance
D300	Parks and Rec	100	General	NRNP	NonRecr NonPrt	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$333,334	\$248,441	\$84,893	(\$333,334)	(\$248,441)	\$84,893
D300	Parks and Rec	100	General	OPER	Operating	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,089,084	\$966,759	\$122,325	(\$1,089,084)	(\$966,759)	\$122,325
D300	Parks and Rec	225	Spr Cross Ranch	NRNP	NonRecr NonPrt	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$41,670	\$41,670	\$0	(\$41,670)	\$0	\$41,670
D300	Parks and Rec	225	Spr Cross Ranch	OPER	Operating	\$300,052	\$275,189.08	(\$24,863)	\$289,381	\$248,503	\$40,878	\$10,671	\$26,696	\$16,015
D300	Parks and Rec	230	Parks&Rec Grant	NRNP	NonRecr NonPrt	\$188,500	\$0	(\$188,500)	\$188,500	\$60,500	\$128,000	\$0	(\$60,500)	(\$60,500)
D300	Parks and Rec	239	Parks Souvenir	OPER	Operating	\$321,246	\$275,403.58	(\$45,842)	\$291,755	\$246,910	\$44,845	\$29,491	\$28,494	(\$997)
D300	Parks and Rec	240	Lk Plsnt Rc Svc	NRNP	NonRecr NonPrt	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,441,670	\$128,657	\$1,313,013	(\$1,441,670)	(\$128,657)	\$1,313,013
D300	Parks and Rec	240	Lk Plsnt Rc Svc	OPER	Operating	\$3,639,010	\$3,853,200.42	\$214,190	\$3,792,595	\$3,759,895	\$32,700	(\$153,585)	\$93,306	\$246,891
D300	Parks and Rec	241	Parks Enhncmnt	NRNP	NonRecr NonPrt	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$698,330	\$98,535	\$599,795	(\$698,330)	(\$98,535)	\$599,795
D300	Parks and Rec	241	Parks Enhncmnt	OPER	Operating	\$6,956,554	\$6,672,629.21	(\$283,925)	\$6,694,883	\$6,698,177	(\$3,294)	\$261,671	(\$25,548)	(\$287,219)
D300	Parks and Rec	243	Parks Donations	OPER	Operating	\$31,790	\$48,927.17	\$17,137	\$31,790	\$13,415	\$18,375	\$0	\$35,512	\$35,512
D300	Parks and Rec	243	Parks Donations	WMD3	Daisy/MtnTrls	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$20,830	\$20,830	\$0	(\$20,830)	\$0	\$20,830
D300	Parks and Rec	296	Coronavirus FRF	NRNP	NonRecr NonPrt	\$11,048,480	\$12,589,453.19	\$1,540,973	\$11,048,480	\$12,589,453	(\$1,540,973)	\$0	\$0	\$0
Sum:						\$22,485,632	\$23,714,803	\$1,229,171	\$25,962,302	\$25,059,246	\$903,056	(\$3,476,670)	(\$1,344,443)	\$2,132,227

HUMAN RESOURCES:

Welcome/Promotions/Transfers:

- Marvin Morris – Navigational Aide – Promotion – 3/2/2026
- Bill Rusk – Park Office Assistant Specialized – 3/16/2026
- James Conway – Trails Specialist – Promotion – 3/30/2026
- Wade Risinger, Jr. – Park Maintenance – Promotion – 3/30/2026
- John Choi – Park Development Superintendent – 4/13/2026
- Janet Hamlett – Par Office Assistant Specialized – 4/13/2026
- Melody Chadis – Contact Station Assistant – 4/20/2026
- Christian Larson – Park Supervisor – 5/6/2026

Farewells:

- Frances Scott – Contact Station Assistant – 4/8/2026

Current Vacancies:

- Park Planner Senior – Lake Pleasant/HQ
- Contact Station Assistant – Lake Pleasant
- Park Custodian – Lake Pleasant
- Park Custodian – Usery
- Park Maintenance Worker – San Tan
- Park Supervisor – Estrella
- Contact Station Assistant – White Tank
- Park Supervisor – Spur Cross



PARK OPERATIONS DIVISION:

NATURAL RESOURCES:

March

- Natural Resources, Interpretive Rangers, and the Arizona Master Naturalists–Maricopa Chapter have partnered with SciStarter, the Desert Botanical Garden, and Arizona State University to support the Greater Phoenix City Nature Challenge (CNC) as part of America’s 250th Birthday celebration. Staff and volunteers will provide guided hikes, discovery stations, and training opportunities to encourage participation and help advance the goal of 250 million Acts of Science. Learn more at www.maricopa.gov/6707/America250.

April

- Natural Resources, Parks Interpretive Staff, and the Central Arizona Butterfly Association recently completed the fifth year of biannual butterfly monitoring. Spring 2026 butterfly counts were above average, though additional years of data are needed to identify long-term trends. Volunteers shared their excitement about the high number of butterflies observed this season. Five-year highlights include:
 - 4,965 butterflies counted
 - 49 species identified
 - Most common species observed:
 - Sleepy Orange (1,158)
 - American Snout (828)
 - Checkered White (380)
 - Dainty Sulphur (269)
 - Queen (228)
 - Cloudless Sulphur (208)
- Spring semester Maricopa County Leadership and Education Advancing Public Service (MCLEAPS) intern, Adriana, is nearing the completion of her internship. Adriana, Natural Resources staff, and volunteers are continuing to review and label wildlife images while tracking and documenting species observations. The final wildlife monitoring report is expected to be completed in late summer.
- Desert Defender program's Invasive Removal Events are wrapping up this month, and results will be included in the next parks summary for commissioners.
- Over 90 removal events completed by the end of April.

VOLUNTEERS:

March

- Five volunteer appreciation parties were held this month.

April

- April 25: Earth Day Cleanup (15 volunteers)
- April 27: Volunteer Cleanup (3 volunteers)



- April 29: APS Fishline Clean-Up (150 volunteers)

Hours (FY26 through April)

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	13,492	13,251	12,721	7,993	60	0	90,049
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	84,804
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	85,172

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	\$451,847	\$443,776	\$426,026	\$267,686	\$2,009	\$0	\$3,015,741
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	\$2,840,086
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	\$2,708,470

TRADES:

- 811 Tickets Requested: 60
- Work Orders Completed: 20 of 28
- Desert Outdoor Center (DOC): Completed first section of pipe rail fencing around dino pit.



- White Tank
 - A meeting was held with internal stakeholders for redesign needs for the Competitive Track project.
- Estrella
 - Completed final campground walkthrough and owner training with contractor.

TRAILS:

March

- Usery
 - Completed repairs and improvements to Merkle Trail. Installed 16 steel culverts, French Drains, and various water control features, as well as repairs and improvements to the tread.

April

- Maricopa Trail



- Segment 11
- Repaired eroded tread and removed large amounts of overgrowth.
- San Tan
 - Installed new equestrian access from the Goldmine Parking Lot and Horse Staging area.
- McDowell
 - Installed culvert on Pemberton Trail and road crossing.

DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS:

- Usery
 - Area 9 Ramada Completion - This involved installing a new 24X24 Ramada with a grill, food prep table, concrete picnic tables, and lighting.



- Area C&D Drinking Fountain - This is a new chilled water drinking fountain with a bottle filler, ADA arm, and a dog bowl.



- Restroom 6 Replacement - This project was to install a new CXT prefabricated restroom building, replacing the old site-built building, and is now completed.





- Restroom 10 Drinking Fountain - This project was to install a chilled water drinking fountain with a bottle filler and dog bowl, and is now completed.

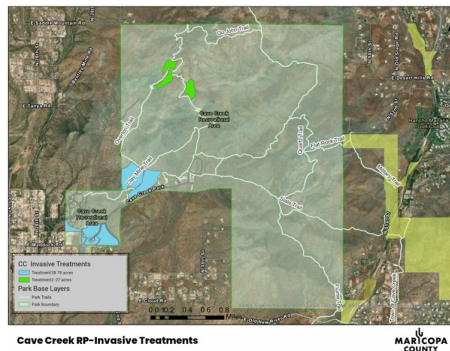


ADOBE DAM REGIONAL PARK:

- Completed Six Flags Hurricane Harbor annual evaluation, followed by a successful season opener to the public on April 18th.

CAVE CREEK REGIONAL PARK:

- Conservation
 - Verde Earth Tech completed herbicide treatment to remove globe chamomile (stinknet) near the main entrance and maintenance compound, along Cave Creek Pkwy, and throughout various trails.



- Enterprise of Technology and Innovation (ETI) completed drone flights to capture invasive plant mitigation within the park.
- Working through the Community Restitution Program, Volunteers logged 20 hours of weeding throughout the Village campground.

DESERT OUTDOOR CENTER (DOC) AT LAKE PLEASANT:

March

- 17 school programs for 1,294 students
- 66 individual programs
- 67 park programs (total of 616 visitors)
- 7 community events (3,893 contacts)
- DOC held a one-week-long church retreat and four weddings

April

- Updates were made to the light fixtures in the Critter Hall
- 15 school programs for 871 students
- 150 park programs (1,052 visitors)
- DOC hosted two high school church retreats, 4 weddings, and a 50th birthday party

HASSAYAMPA RIVER PRESERVE:

- Events
 - April 18: Mesquite Fest
 - Annual event celebrates some of the many uses of our native Mesquite trees and features food and drink samples, gardening and landscaping information, and several workshops.
 - The event is organized by the Friends of Hassayampa in partnership with sponsors including the Wickenburg Conservation Foundation, the Desert Awareness Committee, and ASU Cooperative Extension Master Gardeners.
 - 225 attendees (most to date)

LAKE PLEASANT REGIONAL PARK:

- Events
 - March 1: Park Hosts and Park Assistants worked a booth on behalf of Maricopa County Parks at the Tres Rios Nature Festival
 - March 3: Park Ranger photo shoot at Lake Pleasant at Scorpion Bay and Campsites
 - March 14-15: AZ Yacht Club Spring Series Pleasure Race (30 sailboats participated)
 - March 14: Park Assistant led Wild Burros at Lake Pleasant Hike to 12 participants
 - March 22: AZ Boaters Education at Lake Pleasant at the Discovery Center in collaboration with the Arizona Game and Fish Dept and County Park Rangers. 15 certifications issued.
 - March 28: Crown King Scramble with over 100 runners
 - March 29: Park Assistant worked booth at the annual Arizona Game and Fish Expo on behalf of Maricopa County Parks
 - April 1: Special Use Permit for Aqua Leisure Photo Shoot



- April 2: Maricopa County Sheriff's Office Lake Patrol and Arizona Game and Fish Dept. Scenario Training for 20 officers.
- April 9: Central Arizona Project Legislative Intern Tour for 65
- April 15: Central Arizona Project Valley Leadership Intern Tour for 35
- April 19: Arizona Boater's Education Certification in collaboration with Arizona Game and Fish Department and Maricopa County Park Rangers for 20 students

MCDOWELL MOUNTAIN REGIONAL PARK:

- Conservation
 - Verde River Earth is doing spraying to maintain fire breaks on the north boundary

SAN TAN MOUNTAIN REGIONAL PARK:

- Maintenance
 - Volunteers assisted in getting the Goldmine site ready and held a workday to install signs, prep restroom facilities, and remove invasive species.
 - More than 100 lbs of stinknet alone was removed.



- Events
 - Time-trial for high school mountain bikers that had over 100 people in attendance.
 - Pups in the Park by Pima County Animal Control, park guests could check out shelter dogs for a hike, giving the dogs an opportunity to exercise, relieve stress, and possibly be adopted.
 - Aravaipa hosted nighttime running and biking events on April 24th and 25th with 430+ runners.
- Goldmine Trailhead
 - Trailhead renovations are complete, and the area is open to the public.
 - 3,100 visitors passed through the area within the first couple of weeks.





SPUR CROSS RANCH CONSERVATION AREA:

- Maintenance
 - Staff and service volunteers cleared an overgrown section of the Dragonfly Trail.
 - Repairs of the rock and mortar work on the edge of the Solar Oasis were completed by staff and service volunteers.
 - Additional "Mine Shaft Warning" signs were installed on the three vertical mine shafts along the Dragonfly Trail.
- Events
 - Spur Cross Supervisor gave a tour on 3/27 of the Spur Cross Ranch site to the family of Allen "Tex" Walker, a ranch hand who worked at the ranch during the mid-1940s.
 - Park Supervisor gave a motorized tour of the Spur Cross Guest Ranch site to Frank Stewart and his family on 4/14. Frank had worked at the ranch during the early 1950's.
 - Park Supervisor presented, "The Recent History of Spur Cross, the Last 150 Years" at the Holland Center in Cave Creek to 105 attendees.

USERY MOUNTAIN REGIONAL PARK:

- Maintenance
 - Usery's maintenance crew assisted in clearing vegetation to make way for the construction of the new bathroom and utilities at Area 6, as well as the new water fountain at group picnic area C&D.
 - The maintenance team assisted the Trail Crew with recent project work on the Merkle Trail.

WHITE TANK MOUNTAIN REGIONAL PARK:

- ADA Assessments
 - March 6: Matrix Design Group went through the park and assessed all the facilities.
- Events
 - March 14: Aravaipa Running trail race to 666 participants.
- Trailhead Staging Area Project
 - April 13: Contractors broke ground on the Trailhead Staging Area capital improvement project.
 - This project will expand the overall footprint of the area, pave approximately half of the parking lot, install a flushing restroom, and realign the entrance to match up with Waterfall Canyon Road.



The current estimate for project completion is 08/31.

