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## MEMORANDUM

**Date:** November 18, 2025  
**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 September and October 2025.

### OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR:

- Parks FY26-28 Fee Proposal: Maricopa County Board of Supervisors public meeting and vote on December 10, 2025, at 9:30 a.m.
- Master Plan Update: Moving San Tan Regional Park up by one year (2026) and Lake Pleasant Regional Park back by one year (2027).

### BOARD OF SUPERVISORS AGENDA ITEMS:

Date/Status	Tracking Number	Summary
10/22/2025 Approved	C-06-26-123-X-00	<b>DONATION REPORT - PARKS AND RECREATION</b> In accordance with County Policy A2508, accept the monthly donation report received from Parks and Recreation for September 2025, for a cash value of \$785.30 and a non-cash value of \$0.
11/05/2025 Approved	C-30-15-004-M-11	<b>AMENDMENT TO MONOPOLE USE MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT WITH CROWN CASTLE AT LAKE PLEASANT</b> Approve and execute a Consent Request (the "Consent") to the Use Management Agreement (the "UMA") entered into between Maricopa County and Crown Atlantic Company, LLC, dated October 29, 1999 (C-73-00-002-1-00) and as amended (C-30-15-004-M-00 through C-30-15-004-M-10).  The Consent grants approval for modifications to the existing Crown Castle monopole communications tower at Lake Pleasant Regional Park. The work includes removing the existing three-foot microwave dish and replacing it with a new four-foot microwave dish for carrier AT&T, as well as removing and upgrading the support cabling.  This Amendment is non-financial.



<p>11/05/2025 Approved</p>	<p>C-30-26-002-X-00</p>	<p>COMPETITION IMPRACTICABLE REQUEST TO EPS GROUP, INC.</p> <p>Approve a Competition Impracticable request to EPS Group, Inc. (EPS) for \$600,000 to allow the continuation of Post Design/Construction Admin Service for Vulture Mountain Recreation Area Phases II and III. Phase II of the project includes landscape improvements, water infrastructure (well), park buildings (nature center, maintenance building, restrooms, contact station, wastewater disposal beds), and general site improvements. Phase III encompasses electrical work, additional park buildings (restrooms, gable shelter, wastewater disposal beds), and other general improvements.</p> <p>Parks and Recreation previously requested EPS Group, Inc. submit a modified proposal for post-design services associated with the Vulture Mountain Recreation Area project, and EPS began design work on the project under a contract with MCDOT. Parks and Recreation now requires EPS to provide continued support for P&amp;D permitting efforts, respond to inquiries related to field conditions and contractor submittals, assist with native plant relocation, and participate in bi-weekly construction meetings. In order to ensure project continuity and successful completion, EPS' continued involvement to finalize this portion of the work is required. EPS' ongoing participation is critical to avoid disruption, maintain project momentum, and ensure that key deliverables and timelines are met.</p>
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## 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								
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								
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								
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								
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								
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								
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								
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								
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								
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								
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								
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	0	0	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 4):

Report ID:	FIN-BA-MC010					Budget to Actual							Page 1 of 1		
Run Date:	11/12/2025					by Department, Fund and Appropriation Unit Group									
Run Time:	2:14:18 PM					Fiscal Year: 2026      Period: 4									
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 Balance	Structural Balance Variance	
D300	Parks and Rec	100	General	NRNP	NonRecr NonPrt	\$0		\$0	\$133,336	\$12,058	\$121,278	(\$133,336)	(\$12,058)	\$121,278	
D300	Parks and Rec	100	General	OPER	Operating	\$0		\$0	\$435,632	\$376,057	\$59,575	(\$435,632)	(\$376,057)	\$59,575	
D300	Parks and Rec	225	Spr Cross Ranch	NRNP	NonRecr NonPrt	\$0		\$0	\$16,668		\$16,668	(\$16,668)		\$16,668	
D300	Parks and Rec	225	Spr Cross Ranch	OPER	Operating	\$80,164	\$61,993.00	(\$18,171)	\$116,872	\$96,739	\$20,133	(\$36,708)	(\$34,746)	\$1,962	
D300	Parks and Rec	239	Parks Souvenir	OPER	Operating	\$40,756	\$31,671.03	(\$9,085)	\$117,055	\$112,102	\$4,953	(\$76,299)	(\$80,431)	(\$4,132)	
D300	Parks and Rec	240	Lk Plsnt Rc Svc	NRNP	NonRecr NonPrt	\$0		\$0	\$576,668	\$112,166	\$464,502	(\$576,668)	(\$112,166)	\$464,502	
D300	Parks and Rec	240	Lk Plsnt Rc Svc	OPER	Operating	\$1,552,083	\$1,541,647.22	(\$10,436)	\$1,492,613	\$1,607,623	(\$115,010)	\$59,470	(\$65,976)	(\$125,446)	
D300	Parks and Rec	241	Parks Enhncmnt	NRNP	NonRecr NonPrt	\$0		\$0	\$279,332	\$19,646	\$259,687	(\$279,332)	(\$19,646)	\$259,687	
D300	Parks and Rec	241	Parks Enhncmnt	OPER	Operating	\$2,127,913	\$1,947,595.87	(\$180,317)	\$2,547,631	\$2,729,366	(\$181,735)	(\$419,718)	(\$781,770)	(\$362,052)	
D300	Parks and Rec	243	Parks Donations	OPER	Operating	\$12,716	\$13,266.30	\$550	\$12,716	\$8,089	\$4,627	\$0	\$5,177	\$5,177	
D300	Parks and Rec	243	Parks Donations	WMD3	DaisyMtnTrls	\$0		\$0	\$8,332		\$8,332	(\$8,332)		\$8,332	
D300	Parks and Rec	296	Coronavirus FRF	NRNP	NonRecr NonPrt	\$5,666,486	\$5,169,221.41	(\$497,265)	\$5,666,486	\$5,169,221	\$497,265	\$0	\$0	\$0	
Sum:						\$9,480,118	\$8,765,395	(\$714,723)	\$11,403,341	\$10,243,067	\$1,160,274	(\$1,923,223)	(\$1,477,672)	\$445,551	

## HUMAN RESOURCES:

### Welcome/Promotions/Transfers:

- Trevor Campbell – Park Supervisor, Cave Creek (welcome) – 09/29/2025
- Emily Hogan – Park Assistant, White Tank – 9/15/25
- Alfonso Tovar – Park Maintenance Worker, Estrella - 10/14/25
- Ryan Best – Operations Support Coordinator, Headquarters (promotion) – 10/27/2025
- Kayden Hitzeman – Contact Station Assistant, McDowell (transfer) – 10/13/2025

### Farewells:

- Isabel Oertel – Contact Station Assistant, Lake Pleasant – 10/23/2025
- Laura Gillam – Park Maintenance Worker, McDowell – 10/28/2025
- Chris Flaim – Trails Specialist, Usery – 10/03/2025
- Angela Anderson – Executive Assistant – 10/14/2025

### Current Vacancies:

- P16516 Accounting Specialist
- P80401 Parks Development Superintendent
- P76863 Contact Station Assistant
- P67608 Executive Assistant
- P80502 Contact Station Assistant
- P18380 Contact Station Assistant
- P68857 Contact Station Assistant
- P1399 Parks Maintenance Worker
- P102574 Trail Specialist
- P111210 Parks Planner Senior





## **PARK OPERATIONS DIVISION:**

### **NATURAL RESOURCES:**

- **CAVE CREEK:**

- Two seed pellet workshops (at Cave Creek in September and Estrella Mountain in October) with 28 participants who made over 8,000 seed pellets.



- **DESERT DEFENDER PROGRAM:**

- Planted seven pounds of native seed and distributed over 8,000 seed pellets. Hosted seven seed toss events at six parks: Cave Creek, Estrella Mountain, McDowell Mountain, Spur Cross Ranch, White Tank Mountain, and Utery Mountain.



- Developed protocols to monitor wildlife with trail cameras through collaboration with Arizona State University, McDowell Sonoran Conservancy, and the Phoenix Zoo. Eighteen cameras across six stations captured small mammals, reptiles, and game species, which were moved every three weeks. Data will reveal species, abundance, behaviors, and habitats. A Maricopa County intern and volunteers assist with setup, takedown, and sorting images.





## VOLUNTEERS:

- **Overall Updates/Projects**
  - On October 7, the Volunteer Coordinator reviewed security with the Security Service Department at Estrella and Lake Pleasant. Recommendations were made to improve security at Entry Stations, Nature Centers, and Maintenance facilities.
- **Lake Pleasant Regional Park**
  - On September 14: Seventy Odysea divers participated in an International Coastal Clean-Up, removing 20 lbs of trash from Lake Pleasant's water and 156 lbs from land.
  - September 21: Park cleanup with 15 divers and kayakers.
- **Hassayampa River Preserve**
  - October 25: The Parks volunteer group, The Friends of Hassayampa, guided over 60 Girl Scouts on an educational trip.

## HOURS (FY26 through November)

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	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11,134
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	11,226
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	12,065

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	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$372,878
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	\$375,959
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	\$383,667

## TRADES:

- **September**
  - Completed 20 of 24 work order requests
  - Completed 19 - 811 Arizona ticket requests
  - Estrella – Completed demolition of the damaged parking structure
  - Cave Creek – Greenhouse Project - Poured the concrete for the stem wall
- **October**
  - Completed 20 of 24 work order requests
  - Completed 48 - 811 Arizona ticket requests
  - Cave Creek – Greenhouse project – Assembling the greenhouse frame







## TRAILS:

- **Park Trails**

- Usery - Held the first Maricopa Trail and Parks Foundation Training for the Ambassador Program on October 26 with 16 participants.



- October 1: Assisted volunteer group with trail work along the Pass Mountain Trail in the Tonto National Forest.



- San Tan - October 3: Six San Tan Shredders, two volunteers, and park staff joined the Department's Parks Trail Crew to work on the Stargazer Trail. The trail workday was an educational opportunity for the bike community to learn about trail maintenance and share their preferences with the Trails crew.
- **Training**
  - September: The approved Trails Maintenance Training Module and Fundamentals Program will train Parks Staff, Trail Ambassadors, and volunteers in Trail Maintenance basics.

## **DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS:**

- **September**
  - **Cave Creek Campground Electrical Upgrade** – Completed - Installed a new RV pedestal, main circuit breaker, wire, and hose bib riser for each of the 40 campsites.



- **McDowell Waterline Replacement**
  - Phase 2: Completed - Consisting of replacing 2500 feet of old and leaking waterline from the pump station to valve 10.
  - Phase 3 will start next summer, replacing the existing 2.5 miles.



- **October**
  - **Usery Restroom 6** – Demolition completed in preparation for the new CXT restroom that will be installed later this year.





### **CAVE CREEK REGIONAL PARK:**

- **Events**

- October 10-12: Thriller Night Run (Aravaipa Running) – 60 participants - The morning run was postponed until December 20 due to safety concerns posed by forecasted storms.

- **Maintenance**

- Several water service interruptions occurred due to water line breaks in Cave Creek. The Park's Maintenance team reported the issues to the town and worked to reduce interruptions for guests.

### **DESERT OUTDOOR CENTER AT LAKE PLEASANT:**

- **Center Programming**

- September: There were no school field trips booked in September.
- October: Rangers welcomed 433 students from 8 local schools.

- **Park Programming**

- September: 86 programs and a total of 515 attendees.
- October: 104 park programs for a total of 933 participants.

- **September Outreach**

- Rangers reached an additional 115 and 231 people at special events in Wickenburg and at Estrella, respectively.
- Rangers presented on the Desert Defenders program at the AAEE Conference at Grand Canyon University.

- **October Outreach**

- Rangers held five community events, including outreach for Maricopa County Public Health and WIC, creating 938 visitor contacts.

- **Projects/Maintenance**

- In September, Johnson Controls started upgrading the chiller system. By October, 95% was complete, pending the installation of system control.
- October: Progressive performed several roof repairs due to recent storm activity.

- **Facility Usage**

- September: Hosted two weddings, the Parks Commission meeting, All Hands, Notre Dame Prep's retreat, and a student group ministry from the University of Arizona and Arizona State.
- October: Three weddings, two church retreats, and two Game & Fish banquets.



### **HASSAYAMPA RIVER PRESERVE:**

- **Events**
  - October 7: Park hosted the Wickenburg Leadership Institute (25 attendees).
- **Training**
  - Office Assistant completed the Certified Playground Safety Inspection course (CPSI).
- **Bird Survey**
  - In September, ASU Professor Dr. Stein and his team finished their bird banding for the season and will resume surveys in Spring.

### **LAKE PLEASANT REGIONAL PARK:**

- **Events**
  - September 20: Stonepoint Community Baptist Church Baptism Event - 90 participants.
  - September 14: Arizona Boaters Education -20 students.
  - September 18: Introduction to Paddlesports class - 8 students.

### **SAN TAN MOUNTAIN REGIONAL PARK:**

- **Maintenance**
  - September 29: Parks Maintenance staff began replacing old trail signs. Over a dozen new signs have been installed on major trails.



- **Outreach**
  - September 19: Park staff and leadership met with San Tan Shredders representatives to discuss future plans and their potential role.

### **SPUR CROSS RANCH CONSERVATION AREA:**

- **Training**
  - October 15: Park Volunteer, Tom McGuire, took the MCPRD Interpretive Rangers on a geology tour of Spur Cross.
- **Maintenance**
  - September: Park hosts and staff repaired a low section of road near the entry gate (prone to flooding and muddy conditions) by filling holes and ruts with coarse gravel and soil.



- September 27: Heavy rain caused a minor flash flood on Cave Creek, the first in 16 months. It washed out bridges at five crossings in the park and the Jewel of the Creek Preserve. Staff, a park host, and a volunteer reinstalled the bridges the next day.



- September: Heavy rain caused washouts on sections of the Metate and Dragonfly Trails, which staff and volunteers repaired.
- September: Staff and service volunteers replaced faded directional signage and Maricopa Trail signs at the main trailhead area and at the junction of Spur Cross Trail and Metate Trails.
- **Outreach**
  - October 17: The Park Supervisor gave a Spur Cross history presentation to members of the Desert Foothills Chapter of the AZ Archaeological Society.
  - October: Planning is underway to celebrate the park's 25th Anniversary on January 9, 2026, at 10 a.m.

## **WHITE TANK MOUNTAIN REGIONAL PARK:**

- **Volunteer**
  - A SkillBridge intern, began at White Tank, interning for 16 weeks to learn Parks operations. The DOD SkillBridge program enables service members to gain civilian experience through industry training, apprenticeships, or internships in the last 180 days of their service. It connects Service members with industry partners for real-world job experiences.
- **Maintenance**
  - September rain on September 26 and 27 delivered over 2 inches, causing flash flooding and road closures at wash crossings. Staff responded swiftly, clearing the debris; no damage or injuries were reported.

