



Maricopa County Parks & Recreation Department

MEMORANDUM

41835 N Castle Hot Springs Rd
Morristown, AZ 85342-9887
Main: 602-506-2930
HQ: 602-506-9500
www.maricopa.gov/parks

Date: August 12, 2021
To: Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission
From: R.J. Cardin, Director
Re: Director's Summary of Current Events

Listed below are activities the department has been involved with during **May, June, and July 2021.**

Spur Cross Ranch Conservation Easement

- In August, staff will be presenting to the Board of Supervisors the Arizona Department of Water Resources Application to Sever and Transfer a portion of Certificate of Water Right (CWR) within the Spur Cross Ranch Conservation Area. This application is for a partial severance and transfer of 470.22-acre feet/annum, representing the maximum amount of water allowed under Arizona law for the following proposed uses; (1) an In-Stream Flow Right; (2) a Recreational Use Right; (3) a Stockwatering Right; and (4) a Fish and Wildlife Right.

Parks and Recreation FY2021 Performance Report: (see pages 13 – 16)

Board of Supervisors Agenda Items:

Date/Status	Tracking Number	Summary
5/5/2021 Approved	C-30-16-022-M-01	Amendment to the Maricopa Trail Agreement: Approve Amendment No. 1 to the agreement with the Maricopa Trail and Park Foundation to determine the responsibilities of the Parties related to the enhancements and conservation project(s), reimburse Maricopa County up to \$75,000 per annum for such project(s) as agreed to by both parties, and to exercise the 5-year renewal option, extending the term commencing June 22, 2021, through June 21, 2026.
5/5/2021 Approved	C-30-21-036-X-00	Memorial Bench Donations: Accept the restricted monetary donations of \$1,000 from Shelley Bravin for a memorial bench to be placed within Hassayampa River Preserve; \$1,050 from Janelle Barr for a memorial bench to be placed within Lake Pleasant Regional Park; \$1,050 from Stephen Coulter, \$1,050 from Mindy Burns, and \$1,050 from the Mesa Thunderbirds Lions Club for memorial benches to be placed within Userly Mountain Regional Park; \$1,050 from Gwen Coad for a memorial bench to be placed within Estrella Mountain Regional Park; and \$1,050 from Stanford and Elaine Young for a memorial bench to be placed within White Tank Regional Park.
5/19/2021 Approved	C-30-11-026-03-03	Amendment to IGA with the Town of Cave Creek for Water Rights: Approve Amendment Two to Intergovernmental Agreement with the Town of Cave Creek to clarify responsibilities for preparing and filing the documents necessary for transferring water rights to the Spur Cross Ranch Conservation Area.
5/19/2021 Approved	C-06-21-628-X-00	Donations: Accept the monthly donation reports for February 2021 for the cash value of \$1,956,52 and for March 2021 for the cash value of \$2,355.09.
6/9/2021 Approved	C-30-14-028-M-01	Amendment to Adobe Mountain Golf Course Lease Agreement: Approve the Sixth Amendment to the Adobe Mountain Golf Course Lease Agreement with Sun States Sports, Inc. dba the 500 Club Golf Course, as amended, to extend the term of the agreement. The 500 Club desires to make a substantial improvement to the Complex by development of an event center. Upon the date that the 500 Club

		<p>obtains a certificate of occupancy issued by jurisdictional authorities for the Event Center, the term of the Golf Course Agreement shall be extended for 10 years or until December 31, 2053, whichever is sooner.</p> <p>The 500 Club will pay a reduced fee of 5% of only the Event Center's adjusted gross revenue during the first five years of occupancy. Upon year six and for the duration of the agreement, the Event Center fee will be calculated and paid in accordance with the current fee schedule.</p> <p>If the 500 Club does not commence construction of the Event Center within three years of the effective date of the Sixth Amendment, the Sixth Amendment will be null and void.</p>
6/9/2021 Approved	C-06-21-646-X-00	Donations: Accept the monthly donation reports for April 2021 for the cash value of \$2,016.01.
6/23/2021 Approved	C-30-21-038-X-00	Use Management Agreement with Arizona Model Pilots Society: Approve the UMA with Arizona Model Pilots Society ("Concessionaire") for the promotion, management, operation, and maintenance of the existing remote-control model airplane facility at Adobe Dam Regional Park. All costs will be at the expense of the Concessionaire. Under the Agreement, the Concessionaire may provide improvement and additional recreational amenities on approximately 49 acres at Adobe. The term of the Agreement is ten years.
6/23/2021 Approved	C-06-21-683-X-00	Donations: Accept the monthly donation reports for May 2021 for the cash value of \$1,748.57.
7/14/2021 Approved	C-30-04-027-1-06	Assignment of Use Management Agreement with Southwest Golf Management: Approve an Assignment Agreement among Southwest Golf Management, LLC and Junior National Foundation, a non-profit 501(c)3 organization, regarding the Use Management Agreement (UMA) between Maricopa County and Tres Rios Golf, LLC, originally approved on March 12, 1997, and as later amended. Pursuant to the Assignment Agreement, Maricopa County consents to the assignment of the UMA from Southwest Golf Management, LLC to Junior National Foundation for the management, operation, and maintenance of the Tres Rios Golf Course. All terms of the UMA, as previously amended will remain in full force and effect.
7/14/2021 Approved	C-30-21-002-X-01	Extension to the Grant from Arizona Game and Fish Department for the Heritage Grant Trail Camera Monitoring Program: Approve amendment 2002005-22 to the grant from Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZGFD) Heritage Grant Trail Camera Monitoring Program for a period of one year to end date to August 30, 2022.
7/14/2021 Approved	C-30-22-039-X-00	Memorial Bench Donations: Accept the restricted monetary donation of \$1,050 from Svetlana Drobysh and a \$1,050 donation from Ray Chilson for memorial benches to be placed within Lake Pleasant Regional Park and a \$3,600 donation from Andrea Cantrell for memorial benches to be placed within White Tank Regional Park.
7/14/2021 Approved	C-50-22-211-X-00	MOU with Maricopa County Sheriff's Office: Approve the MOU concerning MCSO's jurisdiction and responsibility over law enforcement and public safety on all Maricopa County Parkland, recreation areas, trails, and conservation areas. This MOU will be reviewed every three years beginning July 2024 to determine if performance and service are in the best interest of the public of Maricopa County.
7/4/2021 Approved	C-95-22-045-X-00	American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Expenditure Approval: Approve the following uses of the ARPA funding consistent with the Board of Supervisors approved priorities. Parks Drinking water infrastructure is estimated at \$3,000,000 and Wastewater infrastructure is estimated at \$3,000,000.

Administration

Budget: (through FY21)

Department		Fund		Appropriation Unit		Expenditures			Revenue				
Code	Name	Code	Name	Code	Name	Appropriation	Detail	Budget	Variance	Appropriation	Detail	Budget	Variance
D300	Parks and Recreation	100	General	OPER	Operating	861313		861313	0				
D300	Parks and Recreation	200	Coronavirus Relief Fund	NRNP	Non Recurring Non Project			1097548	-1097548			1097547	-1097547
D300	Parks and Recreation	225	Spur Cross Ranch Conservation	NRNP	Non Recurring Non Project	100000		3556	96444				
D300	Parks and Recreation	225	Spur Cross Ranch Conservation	OPER	Operating	321657		241507	80150	341141		341348	-207
D300	Parks and Recreation	230	Parks and Recreation Grants	NRNP	Non Recurring Non Project	88000		1093	86907	88000		1938	86062
D300	Parks and Recreation	230	Parks and Recreation Grants	OPER	Operating			0	0			34	-34
D300	Parks and Recreation	239	Parks Souvenir	OPER	Operating	321884		277868	44016	321884		294947	26937
D300	Parks and Recreation	240	Lake Pleasant Recreation Services	NRNP	Non Recurring Non Project	1638191		576597	1061594				
D300	Parks and Recreation	240	Lake Pleasant Recreation Services	OPER	Operating	4180807		3141512	1039295	4180807		4573906	-393099
D300	Parks and Recreation	241	Parks Enhancement	NRNP	Non Recurring Non Project	1205000		755594	449406	0		2577	-2577
D300	Parks and Recreation	241	Parks Enhancement	OPER	Operating	6825259		6378250	447009	6825259		7183276	-358017
D300	Parks and Recreation	243	Parks Donations	NRNP	Non Recurring Non Project	78500			78500				
D300	Parks and Recreation	243	Parks Donations	OPER	Operating	32240		15690	16550	47876		45534	2342
D300	Parks and Recreation	243	Parks Donations	WMD3	Daisy Mountain And Trails	135000			135000				

Contract Administration:

- **Commercial Management Concession Agreements (CMCA):** One CMCA was issued for glamping. As of July 31, there are 42 CMCA's providing such items as: hiking/biking (10); Scuba certifications (8); guided fishing expeditions (9); watersports (7); equestrian (3); food (2); glamping (2); and vessel recovery (1).
- **Lake Pleasant Regional Park:** Scorpion Bay Marina added an on-water attraction. The WIBIT (namesake inspired by the frog), is a huge inflatable obstacle course. Each session is 45 minutes on this slip, slide, bouncing, "monkey" bars, rope hill climbing (to name a few) obstacle course. Reservations are made online and each participant must sign a waiver, Once at the course, they are provided Coast Guard-approved life vests and are given safety instructions. There are lifeguards positioned in the water (on standup paddleboards), along the course, and on the dock to ensure the safety of participants.
- **Estrella Mountain Regional Park Tres Rios Assignment:** As reported in the previous Park's Commission meeting, staff has confirmed the management and business model for the assignee, that the day-to-day management of Tres Rios Golf Course will continue to be by Southwest Golf Management, and the reserve fund will transfer to the new assignee. Per the contract, the reserve fund will continue through the life of the contract.
 Staff is currently working on a Letter of Expression of Interest (LOI) for an expansion of the golf course to include an 18-hole Junior National golf course that must be constructed and managed by a non-profit. This expansion was depicted on the 1988 Estrella Mountain Regional Park Master Plan. Due to the location on BLM land patented to the county, the new course can only be constructed and managed by a non-profit.
- **White Tank Regional Park:** Parks recently entered into an Interdepartmental Agreement (IDA) with MCDOT for the White Tank's picnic activity zone (Area 4). The IDA defined the party's responsibilities for improved access and circulation for Area 4 hikers, day-use patrons, and emergency services. This involves improving turn safety by extending the Area 4 roadway from White Tank Mountain Road, as well as addressing Area 4 parking lot improvements and additional parking spaces.

Human Resources

- **Welcome/Promotions/Transfers:**
 - Nicole Gutierrez, Contact Station Assistant, Lake Pleasant, moved from temporary worker to regular effective 05/31/2021
 - Natasha Voss, Parks Maintenance Worker, Lake Pleasant, 05/31/2021
 - Melissa Martinez, Contact Station Assistant, Lake Pleasant, 06/23/2021
 - Lisa Perry, Contact Station Assistant, Lake Pleasant, 06/23/2021
 - Janet Cook, Contact Station Assistant, Lake Pleasant, 07/12/2021
 - Casey Carter, Interpretive Ranger, Lake Pleasant, 07/21/2021
 - Jeffrey Gruver, promoted from Trades Specialist Supervisor to Park Project Manager effective 05/17/2021
 - Trevor (William) Askew, promoted from Electrician to Trades Specialist Supervisor effective 06/14/2021

• **Farewells**

- Aaron Rothchild, Water Specialist, 05/14/2021
- Michael Miller, Contact Station Assistant, Lake Pleasant, 06/13/2021
- Hans Degnan, Contact Station Assistant, Lake Pleasant, 06/14/2021
- Anne Fisher, Contact Station Assistant, Lake Pleasant, 06/24/2021
- Cody Contner, Interpretive Ranger, Lake Pleasant, 06/28/2021
- Sandra Bennet, Contact Station Assistant, San Tan, 07/12/2021
- Janet Cook, Contact Station Assistant, Lake Pleasant, 07/28/2021
- Robert Mansfield, Parks Maintenance Worker, Usery, 07/22/2021

• **Vacancies**

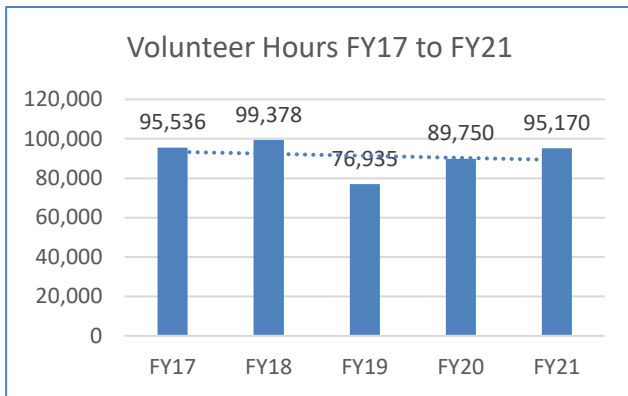
- Electrician (2) - position posted 06/18/2021, interviews held 07/15/2021, offers extended and accepted, one starting 08/09, one starting 09/20
- Contact Station Assistant (4) – reposted 07/01/2021 and 07/15/2021, one offered and starting 08/10/2021, two offers will be made this week.
- Lake Pleasant Park Supervisor – reposted 06/30/2021, interviews completed 07/28/2021, offer likely to be made this week.
- McDowell Park Supervisor – interviews completed, offer extended and accepted, starting 08/09.
- Water Specialist – interviews completed, offer extended and accepted, starting 08/09.
- ON HOLD:
 - Contact Station Assistant (Temp), Cave Creek, PCN 76865
 - Office Assistant Specialized, Estrella, PCN 18975
 - Interpretive Ranger, DOC, PCN 61616
 - Park Maintenance Worker, White Tank, PCN 17167
 - Park Maintenance Worker, DOC, PCN 1429
 - Trails Specialist, PCN 33874
 - Parks Maintenance Worker, San Tan, PCN 79967
 - Parks Maintenance Worker, Usery, PCN 1416
 - Interpretive Ranger, Estrella, PCN 1471

Training Hours (FY21 Final Staff and Core Volunteers)

TheHUB Training													
Safety	July	August	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr**	May	June	Total YTD
FY21	542.97	144.78	113.51	144.04	103.66	65.04	57.29	60.34	74.77	136.76	225.95	127.64	1,796.75
FY20	165.95	225.92	73.05	285.34	177.69	191.15	136.84	77.49	63.54	3.01	31.63	47.24	1,399.98
** Safety Tailgate training assigned monthly via TheHUB effective April 2021													
Other*	July	August	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	Total YTD
FY21	21.28	18.29	36.96	84.37	14.7	17.75	43.52	13.46	8.93	30.34	41.06	34.61	365.27
FY20	37.50	92.18	48.79	54.71	17.07	19.53	103.67	64.80	25.51	3.10	26.49	24.46	466.86
* Other (new employee orientation, policy review, diversity, job skills, professional development, personal development)													

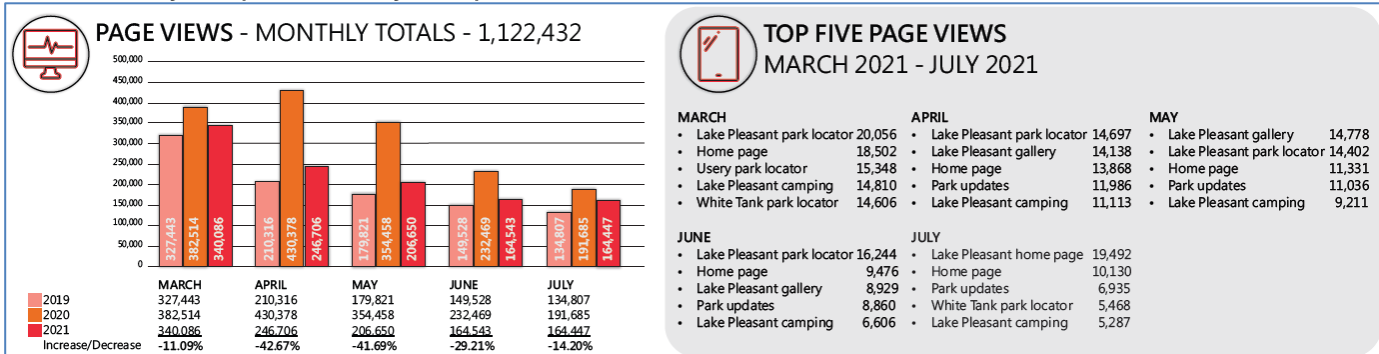
Volunteer Hours (FY21 Final):

TOTAL Volunteer Hours, by month	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	YTD Total	Year End Total
FY21 - All Hours	2,800	2,738	2,699	8,598	11,094	11,790	13,369	12,121	13,745	7,826	3,962	4,428	95,170	95,170
FY20 - All Hours	1,900	1,955	3,884	7,020	10,497	12,463	12,711	12,213	13,177	7,229	3,933	2,768	86,982	89,750
FY19 - All Hours	2,754	2,824	2,968	4,373	9,230	10,390	10,847	13,141	12,575	7,832	0	0	76,935	76,935
FY18 - All Hours	3,506	4,936	4,915	6,682	11,841	12,353	13,804	12,148	13,250	8,708	3,813	3,422	92,143	99,378
Financial Impact of Volunteers, by Month	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	YTD Total	Year End Total
FY21 Financial Impact	\$71,204	\$69,627	\$68,636	\$218,647	\$282,120	\$299,820	\$339,974	\$308,237	\$349,535	\$199,015	\$100,754	\$112,604	\$2,420,173	\$2,420,173
FY20 Financial Impact	\$48,329	\$49,703	\$98,758	\$178,512	\$266,947	\$316,943	\$323,231	\$310,569	\$335,088	\$183,844	\$100,018	\$70,398	\$2,211,942	\$2,282,340
FY19 Financial Impact	\$67,996	\$69,725	\$73,280	\$107,969	\$227,889	\$256,529	\$267,812	\$324,451	\$310,483	\$193,381	\$0	\$0	\$1,899,515	\$1,899,515
FY18 Financial Impact	\$84,635	\$119,155	\$118,648	\$161,303	\$285,842	\$298,201	\$333,229	\$293,253	\$319,855	\$210,211	\$92,046	\$82,607	\$2,316,378	\$2,398,985



Special Days of Service event listings:	Date	Attendance	Hours
Usery - Aqua-Tots - Adopt-a-Trail	5/2/2021	6	15
Spur Cross - Seed Harvesting	5/4/2021	7	21
Desert Defenders - Cave Creek	5/6/2021	4	15
White Tank - Seed Harvesting	5/7/2021	6	40
Cave Creek - Seed Harvesting	5/10/2021	4	14
Spur Cross - Seed Harvesting	5/13/2021	3	10
Cave Creek - Native Seed Garden	5/15/2021	3	6
Lake - Bass Club Clean-Up	5/16/2021	13	52
Estrella - Seed Harvesting	5/18/2021	8	24
White Tank - Seed Harvesting	5/25/2021	9	31
Lake - Clean-Up	6/1/2021	27	108
Desert Defenders - Cave Creek	6/3/2021	7	26
Cave Creek - Seed Harvesting	6/4/2021	4	12
Desert Defenders - Cave Creek	6/6/2021	4	11
White Tank - Seed Harvesting	6/8/2021	1	4

Website Analytics (March – July 2021)



Month	2020	2021	Increase/Decrease
March	382,514	340,086	-11.09%
April	430,378	246,706	-42.67%
May	354,458	206,650	-41.69%
June	232,469	164,543	-29.21%
July	191,685	164,447	-14.20%

Month	2019	2021	Increase/Decrease
March	327,443	340,086	+3.86%
April	210,316	246,706	+17.30%
May	179,821	206,650	+14.91%
June	149,528	164,543	+10.04%
July	134,807	164,447	+27.98%

When comparing the page views for 2020/2021, it looks like there was a significant dip in traffic to the website. However, keep in mind that when reviewing the data, 2020 would be considered an outlier since our attendance counts were unusually high due to all the mandated closures from the pandemic. The 2019/2021 numbers would be a more realistic comparison.

Planning and Development Division

Project Management

- This FY21 Capital Improvement Program is now complete as we move into FY22 projects. New project highlights for this fiscal year include McDowell Mountain Regional Park's campground electrical design, San Tan Goldmine Trailhead construction, Desert Outdoor Center Facility repairs, and landscape work at Estrella Mountain Regional Park. New federal stimulus funding has also been awarded to the department for continued work on critical department infrastructure including water and sewer systems as well as trail maintenance and construction.
- The Parks Project Manager is currently working on the Usery Mountain Regional Park RV Dump Station septic system repairs. The project includes a new septic tank, piping, water stands, and new asphalt and curbing. The project is expected to wrap up this month and will greatly enhance the visitor experience with a new and more efficient dump station for the campground.
- The Department Project Manager is coordinating repair work for the White Tank Mountain Regional Park's contact station damaged by a recent auto accident. Construction supplies, staffing, materials, and resulting scheduled delays are challenging to construction projects across the industry. Staff will begin working with

MCDOT to assess the appropriate location for a new entry station. MCDOT will be conducting a Candidate Assessment Report as the initial step.

- Final touches are being added to Phase I construction documents for the Vulture Mountain Recreation Area. Phase I will be the construction of the park roadways and utility infrastructure in MCDOT's roadbed. APS is designing the off-site utility infrastructure for the park. This will consist of bringing power poles down the Vulture Mine Road to the front of the park where service lines will go underground to the various park amenities. It is critical to get utilities in the roadbed during construction to prevent unnecessary cutting of the new roadway to install future park utility runs. Phase II of the park is anticipated to begin towards the conclusion of Phase I and will consist of the deep well and storage tank, Nature Center, trailheads, parking lots, restrooms, and ramadas. Staff is looking at grant funding opportunities to expedite Phase II amenities by leveraging County funding to speed up the completion of the park amenities. Construction documents are scheduled to be released for bid in November of this year with construction starting in March of 2022.

Trades Crew

- The Trades Crew worked with the Department Project Manager and Caliente Construction to repair the White Tank Mountain Regional Park deep well that supplies the park with water. The submersible pump motor failed; the well was disassembled with the pump and 900' of electrical cable removed. A video of the well casing was completed. Following the video analysis, the well casing was brushed and cleaned, and a new pump was installed. Due to quick action from our Job Order Contractor, Caliente Construction, and assistance from the Department's electricians and project manager, the well was back up and running in a very short time frame, limiting overall downtime and water hauling expenses. The total cost of the repair was approximately \$35,000.
- The Trades Crew installed a steel pipe rail fence around the completed Desert Outdoor Center septic ET bed area. The new ET bed required protection from burro's and was fenced to protect the liner and sand surface to maximize the functionality and life span of the bed.
- The Trades Crew completed the new wildlife viewing blinds at White Tank Mountain Regional Park Wildlife Pond area project. The bird blinds complement the new pond design and were installed so visitors could watch wildlife and take pictures without disturbing the animals.
- Parks management staff interviewed and selected two new park electricians to hire and replace the recently promoted Trevor Askew and Matt Dalton who left for a similar position at the Grand Canyon National Park. The new electricians will be on board during August and September and will bring years of experience to the department.

Maricopa Trail, Sun Circle, and Trailhead Facilities:

- Agreement preparation/negotiations:
 - City of Phoenix – Segment 7 in review by City of Phoenix.
 - CAP – License application for Segment 76 submitted 12/15/2020.
 - AZ Game & Fish Dept – Segment 33 license approved by AZGFD 7/29/21, the trail is open to Buckeye Hills.
 - WAPA (Western Area Power Administration) license applications (four) for Segment 76 approved 7/20/21. Pending submittal to Board of Supervisors.
 - MCDOT – Permit application for Segment 1 sign placement approved 5/7/21.
 - MCFCD (Flood Control District) – Permits submitted for Segments 27 and 35.
- Construction
 - Segment 1 – Signs placed from Gila River to Bethany Home Road June 2021, the segment is now open.
 - Segment 27 – Bush Highway Trailhead completed 6/18/21.
- Maintenance
 - Segment 22 – Sears Fire burned the north eight miles of the trail and rains have caused severe erosion. Currently working on repairs.
 - Groomed tread and brushed the following segments this period: 22 and 33.
- Route Determination
 - Segment 77 Vulture Mountain to Lake Pleasant – Submitted route to BLM 1/25/21. Refined new trail routes in January and April. Site visits completed April 2021.
 - Segment 76 White Tank to Vulture Mountain - Submitted route to BLM 1/25/21. Refined route April 2021. Site visits completed May 2021.

Natural Resources

- The Department Natural Resource Specialist has been facilitating with the Desert Botanic Garden and other local botanists in developing a Floristic Quality Assessment (FQA) database. The FQA is a value-driven tool used to assess an area's ecological integrity based on its plant species composition. FQA metrics are used in

decision-making for managing natural areas' ecological integrity and are based on plant species composition. The team provided a C value to over 1,600 plants that occur within Maricopa County.

- Department staff continues to place the finishing touches on the native seed garden installation at Cave Creek Regional Park. The garden will raise plant species of conservation value and the seed will then be utilized in the north park areas to help restore burned or degraded areas. Plants of conservation value are those species that are native, but rare in the area, and require extra effort and care to re-establish. This native garden currently has forty-six plants established of 6 species and many are blooming and setting seed. The Natural Resource Specialist and the Arizona Master Naturalists are continuing to plant native seed in the “crop row” style garden and perform ongoing maintenance of the site.
- The Natural Resource Specialist wrapped up the Desert Defender program. The program included training 46 volunteers to map invasive species within the parks: hosting twelve invasive species removal events resulting in the removal of 59,000 invasive plants from 34 acres of parkland within four parks. The program facilitated the completion of eight native seed collection events at Cave Creek Regional Park, Spur Cross Ranch Conservation Area, and White Tank Regional Park. These events train volunteers to identify and collect native seeds from park species to be planted in disturbed, burned, or areas impacted by invasive species.

Parks Operations Report

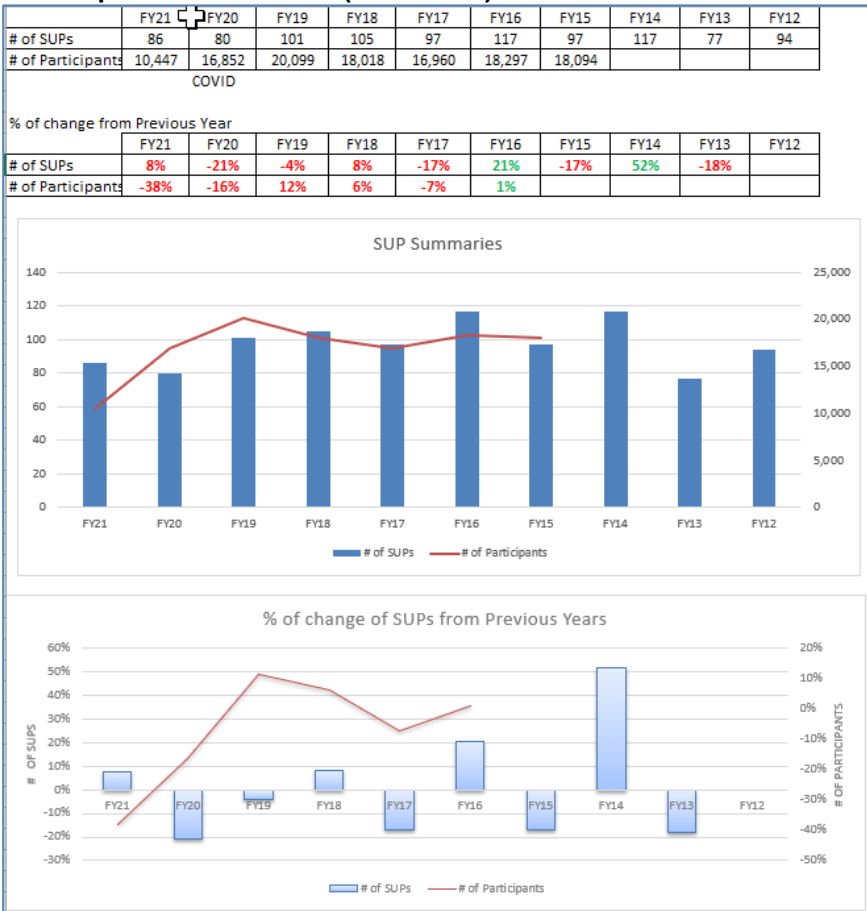
System-wide:

- Beginning May 1st, the park's summer hours were adjusted to 5:00 am – 9:00 pm. The nature center is open Monday through Saturday from 7:00 am – 2:00 pm, closed on Sundays.
- The annual Fire Ban was put in place for May 1 - September 30.

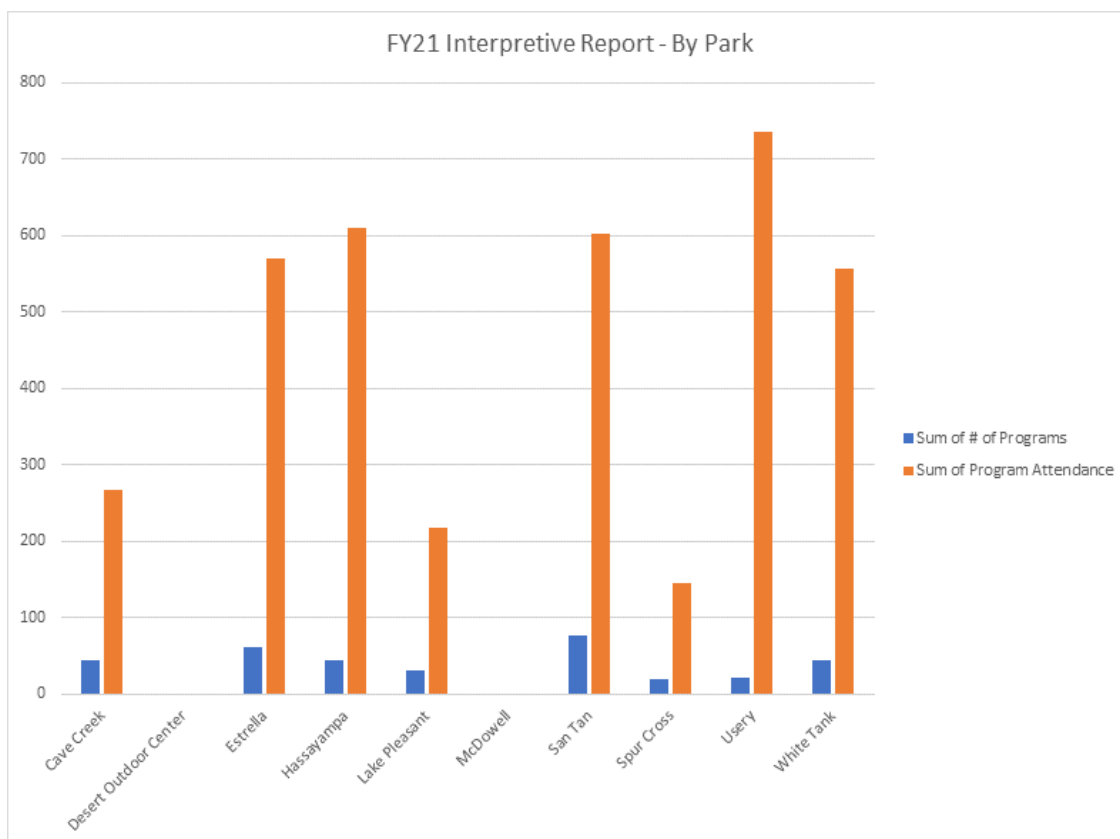
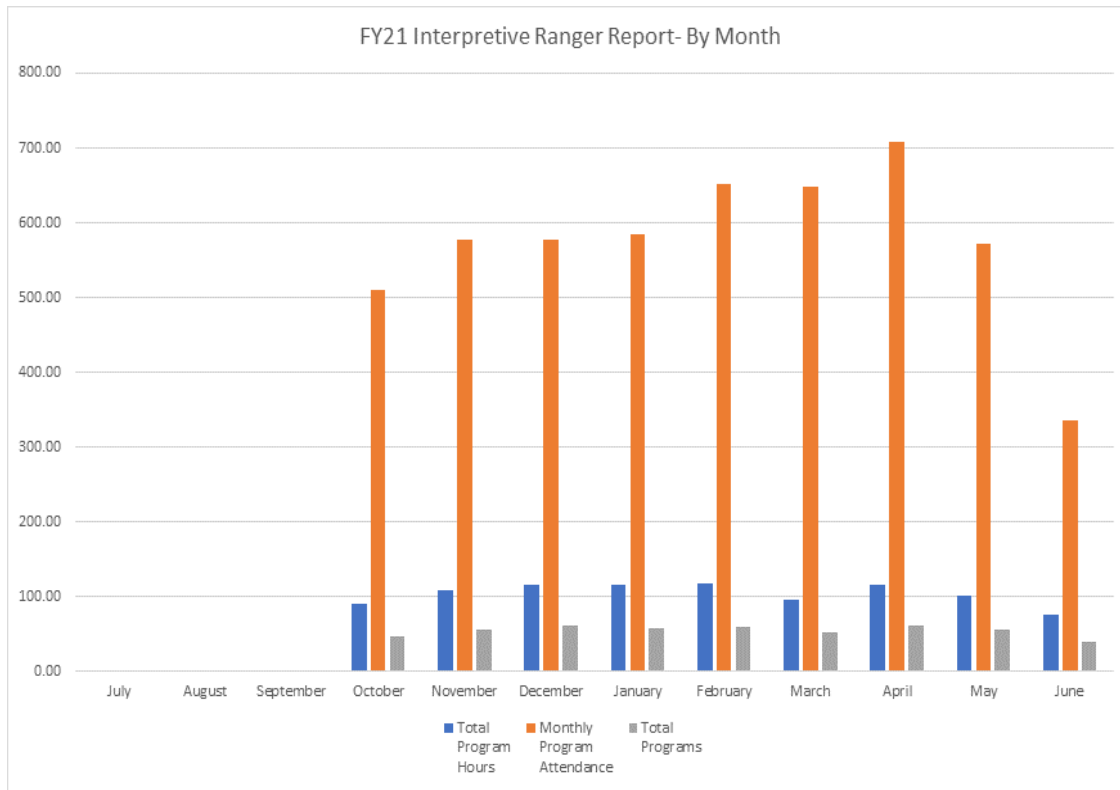
Park Visitor Attendance (FY21 Final):

- Report found on page 17

Parks Special Use Permits (FY21 Final):



Interpretive Ranger Programs (FY21 Final):



Cave Creek Regional Park

- Maintenance has been removing weeds from around all the facilities. They have also been deep cleaning the bathroom facilities for the upcoming season.
- Programs continue to fill up with the maximum attendees.
- The dump station renovations are complete and the facility officially opened on June 17. The Administrative staff has been completing year-end tasks and gearing up for FY22.
- The Mine closure project has been put on hold until the end of September due to the extreme heat.
- New park hour signs have been posted at Cave Creek and Adobe.
- Alex Morgan completed his Eagle Scout Project by fundraising to purchase a flagpole, flags, and granite. His troop cleared and landscaped the area by the park monument sign and installed the flagpole on July 31st.

Estrella Mountain Regional Park

- Many hosts left for the season in April and more left in May. Customer visitation was up in early May and declined toward the end of the month with the onset of 100-degree weather.
- Much work was done on the turf/tree irrigation system in May and June. There were multiple issues with wiring, leaks, and breaks. The maintenance crew reviewed hundreds of valves, decoders, solenoids, wires, and system dynamics to improve the overall workings and water delivery.
- In May, there was one footrace in Estrella Park, with 83 people enjoying the park trails and exercise
- In June, there were two special use permit events. First, a running race with Aravaipa Running brought in 230 participants. Second, a bike race with Aravaipa brought in 52 bike riders.
- Tres Rios Golf Course cleared the old fence and groomed washes and rough areas for drainage improvement and improved visual aspects.
- Temperatures are rising as we see an increase in early morning and evening use. However, the night programs continue to be the most popular and requested programs of the season.
- In July, the Park Supervisor worked with the department Naturalist and Maricopa County Flood Control to update the interpretive panels for the El Rio Test Plot trailhead at the Gila River.
- Tres Rios Golf Course continues to make drainage and visual aspect improvements, which the public is commenting on how well the course is looking.
- The Estrella Park staff and hosts worked on new memorial bench placements, irrigation repairs, grooming of the ramada granite areas, and tree trimming during July.
- At Buckeye Hills, staff did maintenance on the Joe Foss Shooting Range building and general trash pickup.
- The Joe Foss Shooting Range continues with good attendance.
- The monsoon rains have brought increased animal sightings during the early morning and evening hours when most hikes occur during the high summer temperatures. This has been an enjoyable experience for guests. The night programs continue to be the most popular and requested programs of the season.

Hassayampa River Preserve

- Segments of pre-COVID life are starting to reappear with a school group and a bus tour group visiting the Preserve during the month.
- New sidewalks accessing the staff entrance of the Visitor Center were completed along with reconstruction of the concrete patio of a historic building adjacent to the Visitor Center.
- Ranger programs continue to fill. Guest presenters hosted a special *Birding by Ear* program over Memorial Day weekend.
- The Urban Forestry Specialist from AZ DFFM (Department of Forestry and Fire Management) visited the Preserve to observe and measure a potential "Champion Tree" (largest of its species) on the property. Based on the measurements, it appears that a graythorn shrub/tree does indeed beat the current champion, joining two other Champion Trees of different species on the property.
- Staff is also working with DFFM to nominate a historic mulberry tree and the historic palm grove as Heritage Trees (having historical, cultural significance) and Witness Trees (having witnessed Arizona's entry into statehood in 1912).
- Preserve staff and the department's Natural Resource Specialist also met with a bat researcher to discuss the recent findings of his acoustic monitoring project, which identified 17 confirmed species of bats using the Preserve. This is exceptionally high diversity of species for bats, making it nationally significant. Further research needs and expansion of the project to other parks were discussed.
- The department's Trades Crew repaired two water leaks in the Preserve.
- New volunteers are being trained to maintain our Interpretive garden, taking over for longtime volunteers retiring after 20 years.

- Park staff assisted local EMS with an overheated hiker.
- Arizona Game and Fish conducted annual monitoring of southwestern willow flycatcher nests. This protected and endangered bird, which nests in the Preserve, is being seen in greater numbers this summer due to the degradation of another nearby habitat, making the habitat within the Preserve even more critical.
- Regional rainfall has caused some flooding on the river this month, which was a happy sight, as the river had not flooded since March 2020 due to the ongoing drought. River trails remain closed until the river flow subsides enough to reinstall the footbridges across the river. Toward the end of the month, a large storm caused severe runoff from drainages to the east, damaging sections of the trail and dumping a large volume of water into Palm Lake, raising the lake level three feet overnight! Trail repair is occurring.
- The Queen of the Night cactus put on her annual show by blooming this month, delighting visitors and Facebook fans. The Queen of the Night flowers blooms only one night a year, closing the next morning.

Lake Pleasant Regional Park

- After a jam-packed Memorial Day holiday weekend at the Lake, park visitors settled into a more regular visitation pattern with the ensuing heat.
- Staff recruiting continues for the contact station assistants and a park supervisor. Interviews are in process for all open positions. A big shout out to mountain park staff who have dropped everything to assist at the Lake at a moment's notice. The Lake team profusely thanks them!
- With lake water levels significantly decreasing over the month, the shoreline visitors have enjoyed more access to the water. This lessens the impact on the resources, including trees and shrubs. In addition, no park closures have been necessary due to capacity constraints.
- The July 4th weekend went well. It was busy, but all hands were on deck and it went off nicely. On Saturday night, an unusual monsoon storm with high winds hit the lake, but all visitors exited the park without incident.
- At the end of July, a microburst damaged the Bypass Area. It knocked out power to most of the Lake for three days. Along with that, the microburst pulled an estimated 150 saguaros out of the ground and scattered dumpsters and portable johns. Staff and crew from other divisions worked together as a team to get it all put back for visitors. Great team effort!
- The new Interpretive Ranger, Casey Carter, started at the Lake at the end of July. He comes to us from the City of Austin Parks and Recreation. He is well versed in the art of interpretation and has backcountry ranger experience with the National Park Service.
- Staff attended an all-day Southwestern Bald Eagle Committee meeting which covered current data about the successes or not of Arizona's bald eagles. Newly added was Golden Eagle data.

McDowell Mountain Regional Park

- The north loop campground was closed on May 17th to allow for summer maintenance and repairs. Staff partially closed the south loop on June 1 due to limited summer reservations.
- The park received new bike repair stations from the McDowell Friends to be installed at Pemberton Trailhead.
- A new memorial bench was installed on Lousley Hill Trail. Staff coordinated with an Eagle Scout project to bring the materials and equipment to a location that would have otherwise been difficult to access for installation. The customer was appreciative of the extra work.
- *Adrenaline Nights Rides and Runs* was the only Special Use Permit event in May. There were 65 participants in the Friday rides and 534 in the Saturday night runs; no accidents or incidents occurred.
- New summer hosts began work on June 1st helping staff cover the entry station, event areas, and campgrounds. We are grateful to have them join us during these hot months!
- The maintenance staff worked with the department's electricians to replace old bathroom lights with cost and energy-effective LED lights.
- All Park Hours signage was replaced at the entry gate and all remote walk-in entries to reflect new seasonal park hours.
- Staff enjoyed a Staff Appreciation lunch on June 2 to celebrate a job well done during this past challenging year.
- New park supervisor, Grady Hudson, was promoted from Lake Pleasant's Contact Station Lead, and we look forward to the experience and insight he will bring to McDowell.
- While we are grateful for the monsoon, the storms have resulted in much trail repair, park cleanup, and connectivity issues in the Nature Center.
- The season's first *Summer Night Ride* in cooperation with Fountain Hills Bikes was held on July 10th with approximately 80 participants despite the monsoon storm that quickly followed that evening. Everyone expressed their appreciation that these group rides have resumed.

San Tan Mountain Regional Park

- Staff revised the San Tan's Wildland Fire operations plan.
- Maintenance checked and cleared 12 existing drainage channels along Goldmine and San Tan Trails in preparation for monsoon rains.
- San Tan staff responded to 51 rescues for fiscal year 21 (July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021).
- San Tan received approximately 3.7" of rain from July 9 - July 25. Staff and volunteers used the tractor and hand tools to clean up trees, mud, and other debris from the recent storms.
- The ranger observed a "new" plant growing in the park – Devil's Claw (*Proboscidea althaeifolia*), confirmed via emailed photo by Wendy Hodgson at Desert Botanical Garden. A 2007 San Tan botanical study by ASU did not note this plant, but it has been documented nearby in other surveys outside the boundary in 2002 (½ mile northwest of the park) and 2008 near the Phillips Rd driveway.

Spur Cross Ranch Conservation Area

- The parking lot for Spur Cross is being enlarged to hold approximately 200 vehicles. The Town of Cave Creek staff has completed the grading and leveling of the area. The Town staff and Park staff will layout and delineate the area. Parks funded and purchased parking blocks for the spaces. Parks staff and volunteers are measuring and have completed installing parking blocks for three rows of parking spaces. The remaining 120 vehicle spaces and horse trailer spaces will be installed by the end of October.
- Minor trail work continues throughout the park.
- On June 25, the access points that intersect with the Tonto National Forest were closed due to a Stage II Fire Restriction and they will remain closed until July 31, unless the restriction is rescinded.
- On July 21st, heavy storms impeded access to the area due to flash flooding. However, staff and visitors were able to gain access to the park the next day.

Usery Mountain Regional Park

- Usery Mountain Archers began their Thursday Night Shoot Series held each week; approximately 115 archers were in attendance during May.
- One Special Use Permit took place: film shoot, at our C&D Group Picnic area.
- Usery Park said farewell to a longtime year-round park host of 6 years; staff celebrated with pizza and dessert.
- The Buckhorn Campground continued to remain very busy and at full capacity over Memorial Day weekend.
- Aqua Tots organization, which adopted Merkle Trail in April, held their first trail workday on May 2; Maintenance staff provided piles of dirt and DG for them to fill in several areas of erosion. Volunteers also picked up trash and did some trimming; ten volunteers assisted.
- Tonto National Forest implemented closure(s) beginning June 25th due to the extreme fire danger; this affected two of our popular trails, Wind Cave and Pass Mountain Trail. Closures will be in effect until July 31, 2021.
- All Usery Park staff completed the CPR/First Aid Training in June.
- Three memorial benches were purchased in June; one for Blevins Trail and two on Levee trail.
- A new Iron Ranger (IR) was purchased for our Crismon location; several theft attempts have taken place, damaging our current Iron Ranger over time. Maintenance staff, along with our Trades Crew, removed the old one and installed the new IR.
- Maintenance installed several new park hour signs throughout Usery, including the front entrance, the Entry Station, Archery Range, Iron Ranger locations, the Trailhead Staging area, and at Wind Cave trailhead.
- Volunteers continue to be diligent in closing several spider trails and successfully identified one specific problem trail user who has maintained these illegal trails causing additional damage. Maricopa County Sheriff's Office is directly involved and works with staff/volunteers on solutions to remedy the situation.
- Two memorial benches were installed in July on the Vista Trail and Blevins Trail.
- Construction/Renovation of the Buckhorn Campground Dump Station started on Monday, July 26th and is expected to be complete by the end of August.
- Two Special Use Permit events took place during July; one was a trail run, the other a mountain bike race, combined total of 348 participants.

White Tank Mountain Regional Park

- On May 14th, a brush fire started on State Trust land bordering the park's north boundary near Sun Valley Parkway. Fire crews and Heli Attack water drops were able to keep the fire to around 80 acres burned, with roughly 24 acres that spread into the park. The majority of the parkland burned was up a rocky ridgeline and no park operations were affected.
- Field staff attended a First Aid and CPR class at Cave Creek Regional Park to update their certifications.
- White Tank staff assisted Lake Pleasant operations throughout May.
- The CIP isolation-valve installation project on the main water line was completed this month. Construction crews worked quickly and were able to turn the water back on a week earlier than planned. This project will significantly benefit park operations when future water leaks develop as that area of the park can now be isolated instead of the entire park having the water shut off.
- Another park CIP project progressed as the shotcrete base to the newly renovated pond was poured. Crews completed a pipe rail fence around the area to keep the neighboring cows out of the pond. This fence follows Arizona Game and Fish wildlife-friendly fencing standards, allowing smaller games to crawl under and larger games like mule deer to jump over. Sand and rock were delivered for the area, and the pond was filled with water in June. White Tank staff and Trades Crew staff continue to work on landscaping, installing a solar pump, and a windmill aeration system. New trail cams have already captured diverse wildlife visiting the pond.
- The park saw an uptick in heat-related rescues in May as temperatures crept up near the 100's.
- On June 18th, the White Tank well, the park's only water source, went down. A well contractor installed a new pump on Monday the 28th, and water started being flushed from the well on the 29th. Once the water test results report safe consumption, the park will discontinue water deliveries and begin pumping water from the well back into the storage tank.
- Benjamin Weskalnies from Troop 340 completed his Eagle Scout Project at White Tank Mountain Regional Park by fundraising, purchasing, and installing a department-approved bike repair station for the Competitive Track. Benjamin was highly professional and organized; the park staff cannot thank him enough for his wonderful contribution to the facility which will benefit many park patrons in the future.
- Special Use Permit Event - Racetimers held the first night trail run of their summer series in June with a total of 31 participants.
- The White Tank Mountains saw over three inches of rain in July. As a result, the waterfall was flowing on Sunday, July 25th, which brought in additional visitors wanting to get a glimpse of the falls.
- There was no significant damage to park trails, facilities, resources, or roads with that rain.
- Three memorial benches were installed at the newly constructed Blackrock Trail parking lot kiosk area.
- The maintenance crew dragged the ET bed at the Family Campground for vegetation removal.
- The Entry Station suffered another vehicle accident at the end of July. The Department is working with the Maricopa County Department of Transportation Department (MCDOT) to implement the 2014 Master Plan movement of the entry station further west into the park. After the study completion, parks will need to design, engineer, and construct the new entry station. Placement of a temporary building has occurred so that park operations may continue. The estimation of having a new building functioning is June-August 2022, spanning two fiscal years.
- Outdoor interpretive programs continue to be successful. For example, each nighttime "scorpion hunt" hike has been at capacity (10 attendees), with numerous folks going on the waitlist.
- Racetimers held a trail run on July 4th called *4 on the 4th* with 62 participants.

BUILDING A STRONGER MARICOPA COUNTY

Parks and Recreation

FY 2022
DELIVERING SERVICE
& TRACKING
PERFORMANCE

INCREASE VISITATION TO MARICOPA COUNTY PARKS



Target: Increase park visitation annually by an average of 3.5% over the next 5 years.

ABOUT THIS MEASURE:

The Parks and Recreation Department's Vision Statement revolves around connecting more County residents with our natural open spaces and trails.

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT:

Providing quality of life opportunities in parks allows for improved mental and physical health along with family bonding opportunities.

WHAT IS BEING DONE:

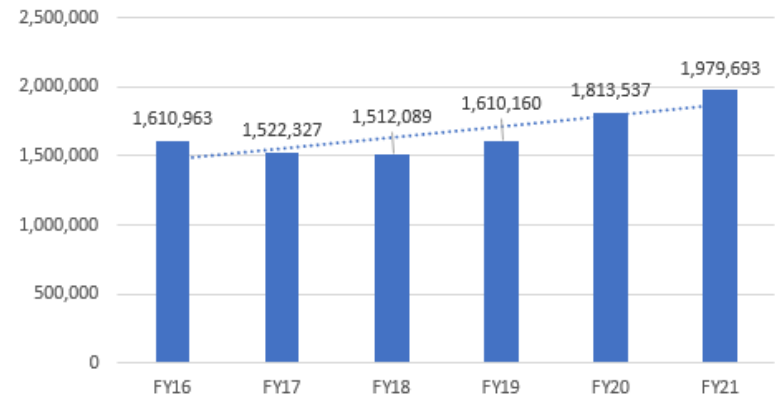
To expand interest and increase awareness, park interpretive rangers provide innovative outdoor recreational, environmental, and educational programs and self-directed park opportunities. The parks have also become a leader in developing and partnering with non-profit and private concessionaires in developing special events. Social media, including Facebook and Twitter, has become a staple for increasing awareness and promoting new opportunities.

Current Performance:
4.42% increase over last five years



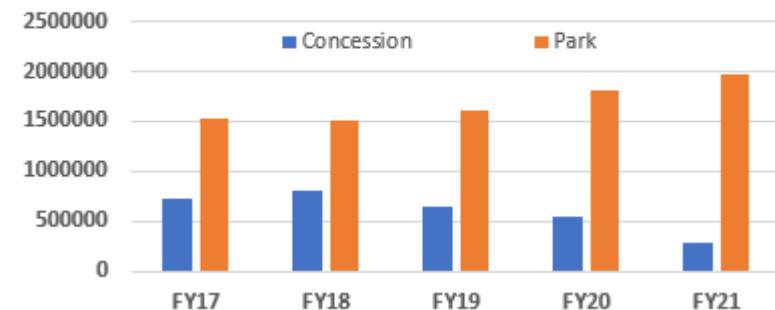
CURRENT PERFORMANCE

Park Attendance FY16 to FY21



HISTORICAL DATA

Park and Concession Attendance FY17 to FY21



BUILDING A STRONGER MARICOPA COUNTY

Parks and Recreation

FY 2022
DELIVERING SERVICE
& TRACKING
PERFORMANCE

MAINTAIN HIGH STANDARD OF PARKLANDS AVAILABLE



Target: Maintain for residents and guests regional open space park land acreage in top 3 for most comparable park systems in Arizona.

ABOUT THIS MEASURE:

The County Park System is comprised of over 120,000 acres of park land. This ranks in the top quartile of a national study on open space parks for counties and in line with other Arizona Counties with park systems, Arizona State Parks, and City of Phoenix.

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT:

A 2017 poll of 800 residents conducted by Arizona State University's Morrison Institute indicated that they overwhelmingly agreed "Arizona's parks preserves, forests and open spaces are important." Only 3% disagreed, while 72% said they were very important and 25% described them as somewhat important.

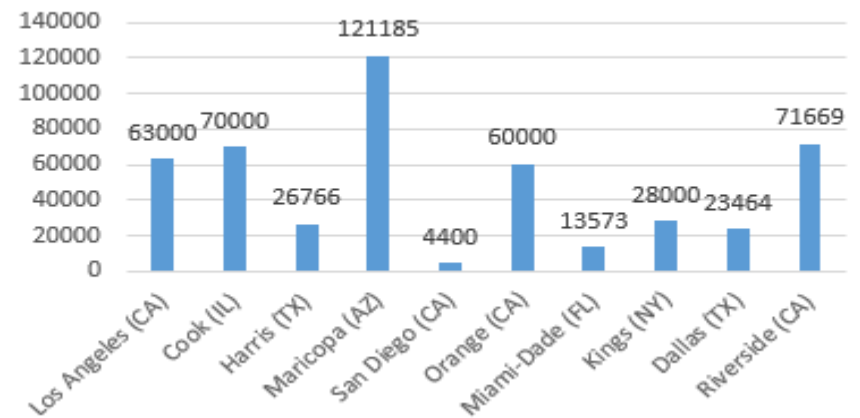
WHAT IS BEING DONE:

As population grows, Maricopa County will need to continue adding open space to maintain our high level of service. The County acquired the Hassayampa River Preserve in April 2017 from The Nature Conservancy and in 2019, received management authority for 1,046 acres known as the Vulture Mountain Cooperative Recreation Area.

#2 in Arizona

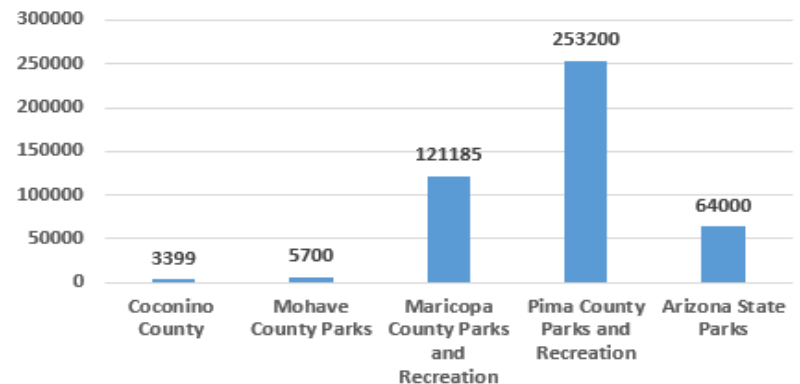
CURRENT PERFORMANCE

Park Acres for 10 most populous US Counties



ARIZONA COUNTY COMPARISON

Total Acres Managed



BUILDING A STRONGER MARICOPA COUNTY

Parks and Recreation

FY 2022
DELIVERING SERVICE
& TRACKING
PERFORMANCE

INCREASE REGIONAL TRAIL OPPORTUNITIES



Target: Increase regional trail miles for residents and visitors by an average of 2.5% per year over the next 5 years.

ABOUT THIS MEASURE:

Over the last 5 years, trail miles in the county regional trail system have increased by 5%, primarily through the development of the 315-mile Maricopa Trail and Lake Pleasant trail network. Over the next 5 years, the County should continue to add new trails in existing parks and provide greater connectivity onto the Maricopa Trail.

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT:

According to the 2017 Arizona Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, trail related recreation is the most desired outdoor recreation activity in the state and future projections indicate a continued growing demand. The vast majority of County Park visitors (71%) participate in trail related recreation activities.

WHAT IS BEING DONE:

Every County Park has a trail plan that includes opportunities for additional trail miles. Efforts continue to complete the Maricopa Trail and in 2020, the Parks Department, began Phase II of the project to improve connectivity with the Maricopa Trail (Phase II).

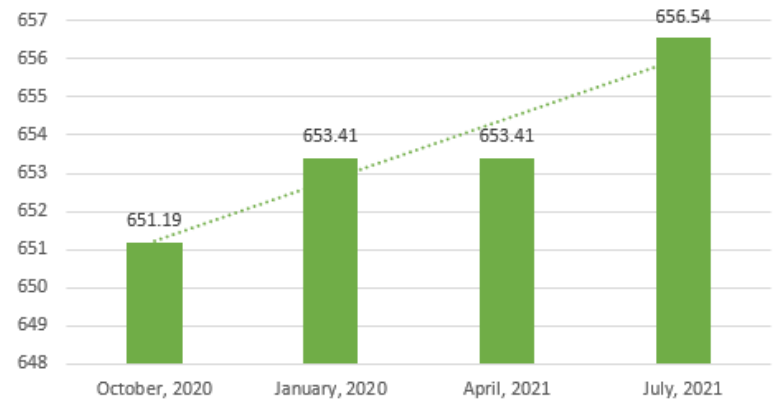


Average 5%/year

INCREASE AVAILABLE TRAIL MILES

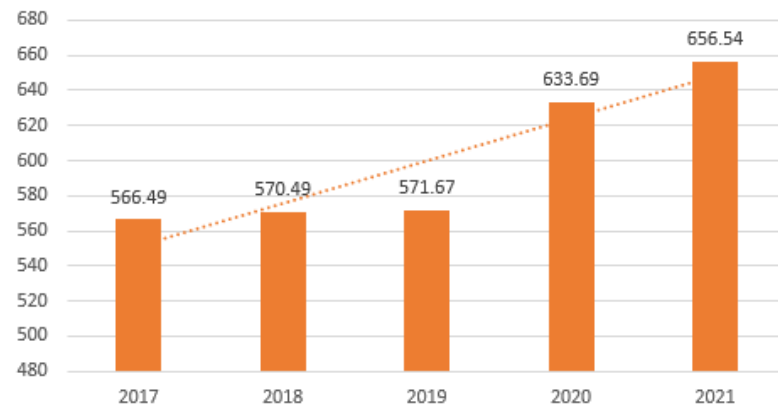
CURRENT PERFORMANCE

2021 Trail Miles by Quarter



HISTORICAL DATA

Trail Miles - FY17 to FY21



BUILDING A STRONGER MARICOPA COUNTY

Parks and Recreation

FY 2022
DELIVERING SERVICE
& TRACKING
PERFORMANCE

INCREASE VOLUNTEER ENGAGEMENT IN COUNTY PARKS



Target: Increase volunteer hours in County Parks and on County Trails by an average of 3.5% annually over the next 5 years.

ABOUT THIS MEASURE:

During the past 10 years, volunteerism in County Parks has shown a significant growth that has helped keep park operating costs low while providing quality services. A sustained growth in the program will allow for continued quality parks and trails as the County expands services in a fiscally responsible manner.

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT:

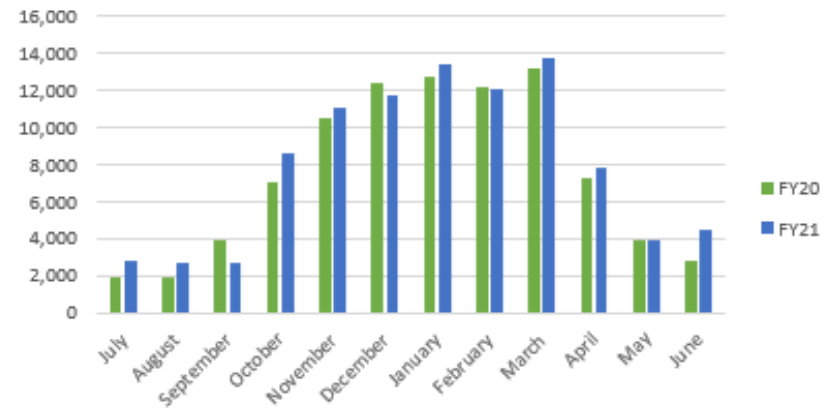
Park volunteers not only significantly supplement staffing in the parks and on the regional trails, but also provides value added services that enhance the park visitor experience. Engaged volunteers are also strong supporters and advocates for the County and the services provided.

WHAT IS BEING DONE:

In FY19, Parks Volunteer Program was revamped to use volunteers in more specific and impactful ways while also redefining what volunteer service entails. FY20 demonstrated these improvements with an increase in volunteer hours using the new day of service method while also retaining and even increasing our core volunteer staffing. Overall increase in volunteer hours FY17 to FY21 was 0.6% but FY19 through FY21 shows an 11% annual increase in hours.

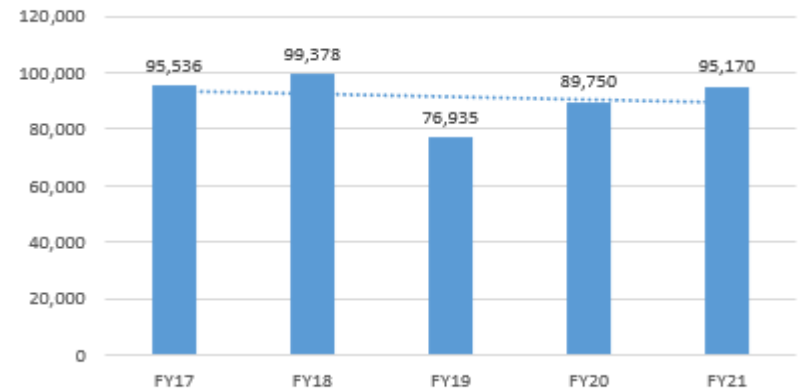
CURRENT PERFORMANCE

Volunteer Hours, FY20 vs. FY21



HISTORICAL DATA

Volunteer Hours FY17 to FY21



Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Visitor Attendance Report
July 1, 2020 thru June 30, 2021

FY21	Jul 20	Aug 20	Sep 20	Oct 20	Nov 20	Dec 20	Jan 21	Feb 21	Mar 21	Apr 21	May 21	Jun 21	MONTH TO DATE	YEAR TO YEAR	% of Change
FY20	Jul 19	Aug 19	Sep 19	Oct 19	Nov 19	Dec 19	Jan 20	Feb 20	Mar 20	Apr 20	May 20	Jun 20	TO DATE	TO YEAR	Month to date
FY19	Jul 18	Aug 18	Sep 18	Oct 18	Nov 18	Dec 18	Jan 19	Feb 19	Mar 19	Apr 19	May 19	Jun 19			
Cave Creek	1,122	911	1,325	4,688	12,084	12,121	3,100	8,520	16,556	12,029	5,021	4567	82,044	82,044	-4.1%
	363	505	959	4,233	9,450	9,775	13,542	14,572	16,079	11,336	3,145	1552	85,511	85,511	3.0%
	494	533	535	3,697	10,054	10,809	12,813	12,949	17,991	9,709	2,786	658	83,028	83,028	4.7%
Estrella Park	2,571	3,317	4,696	8,333	12,723	8,483	11,786	11,102	15,472	12,928	4,770	4,885	101,066	101,066	14.3%
	1,350	1,954	3,571	6,034	9,547	6,841	12,726	11,067	16,449	9,370	5,819	3,687	88,415	88,415	6.2%
	1,824	1,378	3,202	5,458	10,190	6,547	11,754	8,365	15,356	9,840	6,242	3,070	83,226	83,226	2.8%
McDowell Mtn	2,667	2,275	3,806	10,302	16,229	17,207	10,567	14,237	15,519	11,359	4,394	3,660	112,222	112,222	-5.8%
	1,095	1,407	3,520	11,570	12,574	13,877	17,846	16,006	18,997	13,822	5,654	2,779	119,147	119,147	11.5%
	1,079	1,700	3,105	9,391	13,026	13,441	15,980	14,635	19,255	9,518	3,930	1,798	106,858	106,858	5.7%
San Tan Park	8,080	7,029	11,102	16,676	27,144	20,844	28,733	27,145	30,325	17,618	11,342	7,818	213,856	213,856	6.2%
	3,941	3,832	6,009	12,801	17,839	16,810	27,717	25,062	33,803	26,313	17,551	9,622	201,300	201,300	24.8%
	3,518	3,786	5,515	12,393	18,642	18,718	26,054	18,736	27,959	15,598	12,225	6,364	169,508	169,508	5.1%
Spur Cross	171	121	354	1984	3,826	5,218	1,052	7,318	7,886	4,790	344	620	33,684	33,684	46.7%
	113	122	244	730	826	4,208	4,592	4,569	4,508	2,276	563	210	22,961	22,961	13.5%
	140	111	247	744	1,286	3,256	4,526	2,261	6,172	3,898	817	224	23,682	23,682	17.1%
Usery Mtn Park	5,981	7,587	9,683	18,705	33,071	28,940	36,833	31,140	31,161	21,667	9,212	9,171	243,151	243,151	-1.1%
	5,562	5,959	8,133	16,411	26,374	23,339	34,431	33,957	44,356	25,954	12,914	8,453	245,843	245,843	10.0%
	5,519	5,775	7,668	15,711	28,914	27,958	32,925	28,352	41,655	20,986	15,124	7,443	238,030	238,030	6.5%
White Tank	8,801	7,667	11,991	20,736	31,836	34,425	29,727	35,040	37,183	27,369	13,562	14,222	272,559	272,559	-8.7%
	4,913	5,658	9,810	20,115	31,195	27,762	39,931	40,494	64,224	27,038	16,680	10,640	298,460	298,460	17.7%
	5,666	6,052	8,617	26,767	31,806	30,598	40,333	38,731	58,215	26,260	18,311	7,201	298,557	298,557	17.8%
Hassayampa	855	632	840	1681	1,984	1,204	856	1,886	2,348.0	2,043	1512	555	16,396	16,396	-4.9%
	453	418	591	1405	1,498	971	1,746	2,002	2,321.0	2,477	2072	1294	17,248	17,248	18.9%
	366	367	649	997	1,317	1,151	1,535	1,223	2,847	1,743	1386	929	14,510	14,510	11.8%
Lake Pleasant	101,160	96,366	79,426	58,720	40,177	22,387	23,659	31,563	42,879	99,020	91,164	218,193	904,714	904,714	24.8%
	90,616	63,458	51,411	37,125	31,095	18,054	32,436	40,902	69,504	75,153	116,342	98,916	725,012	725,012	7.6%
	90,890	52,385	53,848	28,787	31,278	21,794	29,689	29,004	74,331	81,478	79,342	100,981	673,807	673,807	1.8%
DOC	0	-	0	-	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0	-100.0%
	140	64	381	1,556	1887	1,330	1,622	1,630	1,030	-	-	-	9,640	9,640	-22.7%
	27	120	384	1,305	1804	1,057	1,615	1,455	1,660	2,076	969	-	12,472	12,472	-18.8%
SYSTEM TOTAL	131,408	125,905	123,223	141,825	179,074	150,830	146,313	167,951	199,329	208,823	141,321	263,691	1,979,693	1,979,693	9.2%
	108,546	83,377	84,629	111,980	142,285	122,967	186,589	190,261	271,271	193,739	180,740	137,153	1,813,537	1,813,537	12.6%
	97,539	70,625	87,713	103,371	141,070	132,622	177,383	168,039	228,472	162,507	126,607	114,212	1,610,160	1,610,160	6.5%

DOC - closed due to COVID-19 Pandemic