



Maricopa County Parks & Recreation Department

MEMORANDUM

41835 N Castle Hot Springs Rd
Morristown, AZ 85342-9887
Phone: 602-506-2930
Fax: 602-372-8596
www.maricopa.gov/parks

Date: May 14, 2020
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 **March and April 2020**.

Board of Supervisors Agenda Items:

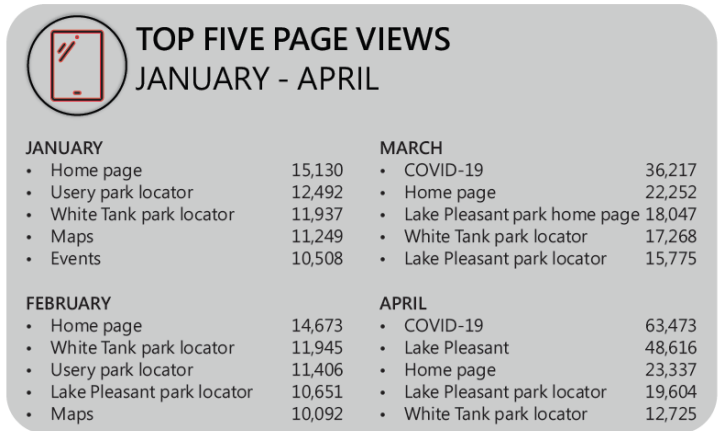
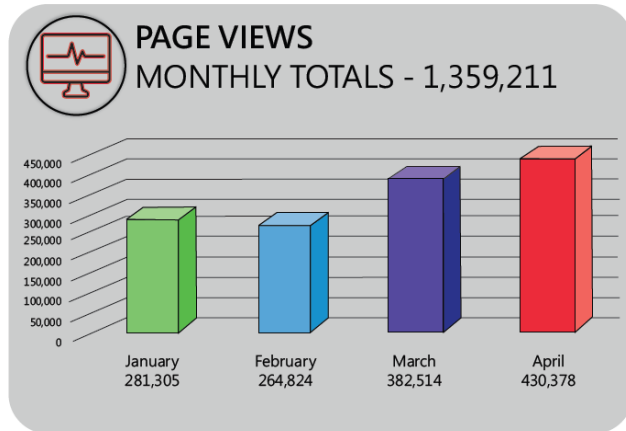
Date/Status	Tracking Number	Summary
3/25/2020 Approved	C-30-15-04-M-06	Amendment to Monopole Use Management Agreement with Crown Castle: Approved the additional modifications to the communication tower at Lake Pleasant Regional Park.
3/25/2020 Approved	C-30-20-010-D-00	Donations for Parks: Accept the restricted monetary donations of \$1,000 from Claudia Cooley for a memorial bench to be placed within Lake Pleasant Regional Park; a \$1,000 from Brian and Julie Martin and a \$1,000 from Kelli Kubista for two memorial benches to be placed within Usery Mountain Regional Park; and a \$1,000 from Patrick McHane for a memorial bench to be placed within San Tan Mountain Regional Park.
3/25/2020 Approved	C-06-20-426-7-00	Donation Report for February 2020: Cash value of \$508.58 and non-cash value of \$509.64.
3/25/2020 Approved	C-06-20-392-7-00	Joint Program and Marketing Agreement with Recreational Equipment, Inc. (REI): Approve the revenue-generating agreement to accomplish common goals and objectives for the education, cooperative marketing, operation and management of sustainable outdoor recreational opportunities and promote healthy outdoor lifestyles within all the Maricopa County Regional Parks including the Maricopa Trail.
3/25/2020 Approved	C-30-20-011-M-00	MOU with Arizona Game and Fish Commission and Others for Conservation of the Bald Eagles in Arizona: Approve this MOU to continue the conservation partnership previously established by a 2007 MOU to maintain and, where feasible and appropriate, enhance the breeding bald eagle population in Arizona.
4/8/2020 Approved	C-30-20-012-M-00	Reimbursement Agreement with United States Bureau of Reclamation for Maricopa Trail, Granite Reef Trailhead: Approve the Reimbursement Agreement is for the County to reimburse the environmental compliance costs due Reclamation to complete environmental compliance for the Project. The costs are estimated at \$2,500.00 to a maximum of \$5,000.00.
4/22/2020 Approved	C-06-20-465-7-00	Donation Report for March 2020: Cash value of \$984.23.

Administration

Financial/Budget Status through April 2020:

Fund Code	Name	Appropriation Unit		Expenditures			Revenue		
		Code	Name	Appropriation	Detail Budget	Variance	Appropriation	Detail Budget	Variance
100	General	NRNP	Non Recurring Non Project						
100	General	OPER	Operating	\$878,891	\$732,420	\$146,471			
100	General	PKRR	Parks Restrooms Upgrades	\$37,564	\$21,970	\$15,594			
225	Spur Cross Ranch Conservation	NRNP	Non Recurring Non Project	\$250,000		\$250,000			
225	Spur Cross Ranch Conservation	OPER	Operating	\$294,955	\$131,137	\$163,818	\$294,955	\$283,711	\$11,244
230	Parks and Recreation Grants	OPER	Operating	\$2,200	-\$3,341	\$5,541	\$2,200	\$2,348	-\$148
239	Parks Souvenir	OPER	Operating	\$396,183	\$363,368	\$32,815	\$396,183	\$337,485	\$58,698
240	Lake Pleasant Recreation Services	NRNP	Non Recurring Non Project	\$715,000	\$375,763	\$339,237			\$0
240	Lake Pleasant Recreation Services	OPER	Operating	\$3,284,085	\$2,638,700	\$645,385	\$3,284,085	\$3,077,514	\$206,571
241	Parks Enhancement	NRNP	Non Recurring Non Project	\$1,454,670	\$565,708				\$0
241	Parks Enhancement	OPER	Operating	\$5,852,602	\$4,837,190	\$1,015,412	\$5,852,602	\$5,850,255	\$2,347
243	Parks Donations	OPER	Operating	\$25,404	\$18,634	\$6,770	\$25,404	\$39,905	-\$14,501
243	Parks Donations	WMD3	Daisy Mountain And Trails	\$160,000		\$160,000			

Web Analytics Report:



Contract Administration:

- **COVID-19 Concessionaire impact:**
 - Golf courses and sporting concessions are experiencing a significant impact on reduced participation, restaurant revenues, and the loss of revenue for all tournaments; most concession fees are based on a percentage of revenue.
 - Six Flags Hurricane Harbor has been closed since March 12th; corporate closed all of their facilities. Although some of the amusement parks are opening in phases, there is no planned opening for the water park.
 - Buckeye Hills Shooting Range (managed by Arizona State Rifle and Pistol Association) closed their facility to the public, only allowing law enforcement use for March and April.
 - Other concessions (i.e., model airplane, train park, kart racing, equestrians, CMCA's) have either closed or experienced a large drop in participation due to the social distancing.
 - Recreation Equipment Inc.'s (REI) Joint Program and Marketing agreement was approved by the Board of Supervisors; however, REI has suspended all events throughout the United States.
 - The Use Management Agreement with Southwest Conservation Center was approved by the Board of Supervisors; however, due to the COVID-19, the effective date will not be set until the governmental restrictions are lifted.
- **Adobe - Cancelled Events:**
 - March 16-22nd Sahuaro Railroad Preservation Society/Maricopa Live Steamers 14th Annual Spring Meet
 - March 28th Phoenix Kart Racing Association – Arizona Drag Racers Reunion – Hall of Fame Induction Car Show, Karting Expo and Swap Meet
 - April 3-5th Sahuaro Railroad Preservation Society/Maricopa Live Steamers Boy Scouts Webelos Crossover (where Cub Scouts become Boy Scouts)
 - May 24th; Six Flags Hurricane Harbor Phoenix – Fireworks Memorial Day
 - Pending the outcome of governmental restrictions, the following may be canceled: July 3, 4th; Six Flags Hurricane Harbor Phoenix – Fireworks Independence Day

Volunteer Hours (YTD through April 2020):

TOTAL Volunteer Hours, by month	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	YTD Total	YTD Change	Year End Total	Year End % Change
FY20 - All Hours	1900.47	1954.5	3883.52	7019.73	10497.32	12463.36	12710.63	12212.71	13176.86	7219.43	0	0	75,819	10%		
FY19 - All Hours	2754	2824	2968	4373	9230	10390	10847	13141	12575.25	7832.35	0	0	69,102	-17%	76934.6	-22.6%
FY18 - All Hours	3506	4936	4915	6682	11841	12353	13804	12148	13250	8708	3813	3422	83,435		99378	
FY20 - Core Volunteers	1669.42	1739.25	2254.62	6239.13	9825.07	11534.94	11440.13	10949.16	10864.06	7164.88	0	0	66,516		73680.66	1.9%
FY19 - Core Volunteers	2625	2763	2827	4277	9172	10286	10601	13098	12384	7023.97	0	0	68,033		75056.97	
FY20 - Service Volunteer Hours	231.05	215.25	1628.9	780.6	672.25	928.42	1270.5	1263.55	2312.8	54.55	0	0	9,303		9357.87	-79.6%
FY19 - Service Volunteer Hours	129	61	141	96	59	104	246	43	221.25	808.38	0	0	1,100		1908.63	

Financial Impact of Volunteers, by Month	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	YTD Total	% Change
FY20 Financial Impact	\$48,329	\$49,703	\$98,758	\$178,512	\$266,947	\$316,943	\$323,231	\$310,569	\$335,088	\$183,590	\$0	\$0	\$1,928,080	13%
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	\$1,706,135	-15%
FY18 Financial Impact	\$84,635	\$119,155	\$118,648	\$181,303	\$285,842	\$298,201	\$333,229	\$293,253	\$319,855	\$210,211	\$92,046	\$82,607	\$2,014,121	

TOTAL Number of CORE Volunteers, by Month	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June
FY20 - Core Volunteers active at Parks	158	160	181	193	196	194	202	204	202	181	0	0
FY19 - Core Volunteers active at Parks	57	59	63	94	128	172	159	177	171	129	0	0

25.43 FY20 Volunteer Hourly Rate
 24.69 FY19 Volunteer Hourly Rate
 24.14 FY18 Volunteer Hourly Rate

Planning and Development Division

Project Management

- The new electrical service is installed at the Hassayampa River Preserve. As part of a multi-year preserve improvement plan, the overhead power lines to the visitor's center are now routed underground, and the new service feeds are installed under the road to the maintenance buildings. The new service also supplies additional power for any future needs.
- The new roof project at Hassayampa River Preserve continues. The project is replacing the metal roof panels and underlayment as well as new flashing, trim, and rain gutters. This project replaces the existing roof previously installed by volunteers and installs the correct components to seal the building. The building is currently dried in, a metal wrap was installed on the dormer windows, and new fascia boards are installed.
- New park host sites have been completed at Estrella Mountain Regional Park. Potable water and the new septic system have been installed, and the electrical pedestals are up and running; the new sites are ready for hosts to utilize.

Trades Crew

- Our electricians have completed the electrical preventative maintenance work at the Desert Outdoor Center. The electrician replaced switches, outlets, covers, and some breakers at the facility.
- They replaced the air compressor, electrical breaker, and enclosure doors for the Adobe Dam Hydro tank air compressor, a part of the water delivery system to Victory Lane Sports Complex. This project replaced the old compressor prior to failure to ensure continued water delivery to our concessionaire.
- They also fabricated and installed the sides to the new weather station enclosure adjacent to the Lake Pleasant Discovery Center playground. This project relocated the weather station well to the south of the playground in a more suitable area.

Trails Crew

- The crew is constructing the new trail addition to the track at Estrella Mountain Regional Park Competition Track. This addition is approximately 2.0 miles and provides an additional route and challenges to the riders. They are working with the West Valley Trail Alliance to assist with the project.

Maricopa Trail, Sun Circle, and Trail Facilities:

- Agreement preparation/negotiations:
 - City of Phoenix – IGA for Segment 1 sent to the Phoenix Street Transportation Department.
 - ADOT – Received permit for Segment 8 under the new SR202 on 5/1/2020.
 - Daisy Mountain – completed the survey, plat, and legal descriptions 4/27/2020, scheduling a meeting with State Land.
- Construction - Planning construction of new trail under SR202.
- Maintenance
 - Segment 20 – Tonto National Forest secured two hitches from the Arizona Conservation Corps (AZCC) for backcountry crews and managed by the Maricopa Trail Manager. The crew completed seven miles of trail improvement and a 300-foot re-route for safety.
 - Segment 22 – Due to cancellations from other commitments, two AZCC crews were able to work on four miles of trail trimming cat claw, building erosion walls, and general tread repair.

- Trailheads
 - Segment 11 – Sun Valley Parkway – The trailhead is complete and opened 4/23/2020.
 - Segment 27 – Bush Highway – Bureau of Reclamation and the Board of Supervisors approved the agreement. Construction scheduled for the first quarter of FY21.
- Sign Installation, Inventory, and Mapping
 - Installing signs on Segment 33.
- Route Determination – Presented draft alternate routes for Segment 77 (Vulture Mountain to Lake Pleasant) and Segment 76 (White Tank to Vulture Mountain) to management for review.

Parks Operations Report

Buckeye Hills Regional Park

- Maintenance:
 - Eagle Scout and his troop rebuilt and painted seventeen shooting range benches. The Joe Foss range operators were pleased with the outcome
 - Installed T-posts and signs along the park's north boundary reducing trespassing into the park.

Cave Creek Regional Park

- Administrative:
 - April - with COVID-19 protocols in place, the park reached parking capacity early on multiple weekends, necessitating partial closures off and on throughout the mornings.
 - Family campground full throughout April.
 - An employee retired from a park maintenance position.
- Interpretive Services:
 - March - 10 interpretive programs - 110 participants.
 - Highlighted program - *Feeding Frenzy* - 26 visitors.
 - Canceled 10 programs because of rains and COVID-19.
- Special Event:
 - March 7th - *100 Miles in 100 Days Challenge Celebration* - 22 attendees.

Desert Outdoor Center (DOC)

- Administrative:
 - DOC staff were redirected to work at other parks, helping with a variety of tasks due to increased attendance.
- Interpretive Services:
 - March - School field trips started very strong, but unfortunately, all remaining field trips were canceled on March 15th through May. Many schools chose to reschedule their field trips for next year.
 - Weekend special events, including four weddings, two church retreats, one aquatic BSA training, and *Stargazing* were canceled due to limited group gathering capacity.
 - April – New - exploring the possibility of offering a virtual field trip program for some of those schools that were not able to visit this year. We are excited to explore this new education platform and develop new opportunities for the future.

Estrella Mountain Regional Park

- Interpretive Services:
 - March - 12 programs - 484 people.
 - Highlights - *Desert Connections Outreach Program* - 150 people and *Moonlight Hike* - 60 people.
 - Wildflowers were blooming strongly in the first half of the month.
 - April - New - created social media programming, posting creative environmental and educational videos on Facebook, and promoting self-guided hikes.
 - Blooming desert plant types shifted in April from herbaceous wildflowers to cacti and trees.
- Special Event:
 - March 7th - *100 Miles in 100 Days Challenge Celebration* - 30 attendees.
- Maintenance:
 - Continue to work on reducing illegal entry on the north park boundary by installing and repairing fences, signage, and blocking illegal roads.

Lake Pleasant Regional Park

- Administrative:
 - Continue to work diligently to protect the resources within the North Lake Pleasant Conservation Area by installing new barriers and continuing to implore natural barrier strategies. Park staff regularly dedicate time on weekends to educate illegal access users in the area on the weekends, along with assistance from MCSO to issue citations to keep vehicles out of the area.
- Maintenance:
 - Added decorative tile to the outdated pillars at the Discovery Center.
- Bald Eagle Update:
 - Currently, there are three baby eagles spread out around the lake, continuing to grow and develop nicely. Hopefully, they will be ready to take their first steps off the nest for flight in the coming weeks.

McDowell Mountain Regional Park

- Administrative:
 - The park lost two full-time employees in March, Ranger Amy, and the park supervisor. The Eastside Superintendent is now handling the day-to-day operations of the park.
 - The Library District's and past park employee, Dianna Manasee, was loaned back to Parks as a furloughed employee; she assisted us for the month of April.
 - Eight host couples for the 2019/20 season left for the season. We welcomed one new host couple who will be staying on full-time throughout the year.
- Interpretive Services:
 - With no interpretive ranger, the park did manage to conduct two interpretive programs with 17 visitors in attendance.
- Maintenance:
 - Restroom 8 (South Loop Camp) was shut down due to overflowing septic, waiting on hydro-jetting from the contractor.
 - Habitats for the kingsnake and the Gila monster were refreshed.
 - Completed the site preparation for the addition of three additional tent sites, bringing the park total to 17 tent sites.
 - Septic repairs and a new epoxy floor were completed in restroom #8.

San Tan Regional Park

- Administrative:
 - April - with COVID-19 protocols in place, the park reached parking capacity early on multiple weekends, necessitating partial closures off and on throughout the mornings.
 - San Tan park staff appreciates weekend support from staff at the DOC, McDowell Park, and the Library District's Queen Creek branch library.
- Interpretive Services:
 - March - San Tan - 12 programs - 262 participants.
 - Highlights – *Wildflower Walk* - 33 people, and the San Tan Valley Master Gardeners presented a trailhead seed dispersal talk and kids crafting - 60 people.
- Special Event(s):
 - March 7th - The *100 Miles in 100 Days Challenge* Celebration - 90 participants.
 - Two large Aravaipa Running events - the *Sinister Series* bike and a running race have been rescheduled for August.

Spur Cross Conservation Area

- Administrative:
 - One host couple left early as a result of the border closing in Canada due to the COVID-19.
 - April - with COVID-19 protocols in place, the park reached parking capacity early on multiple weekends, necessitating partial closures off and on throughout the mornings.
- Interpretive Services:
 - March - nine interpretive programs - 87 participants.
 - Highlights - *Moonlight Hike* - 42 visitors and *Geology Hike* - 23 visitors.
 - Canceled six programs because of rains and COVID-19.
 - Uploaded 85 photos to Facebook of this year's wildflowers found in the park.

Usery Mountain Regional Park

- Administrative:
 - Park hosts were treated to a Host Appreciation Lunch catered by Dickey's BBQ. Staff provided kudos and gifts to all in attendance.
 - April - with COVID-19 protocols in place, the park reached parking capacity early on multiple weekends, necessitating partial closures off and on throughout the mornings.
- Interpretive Services:
 - March - ten interpretive programs - 483 participants.
 - Highlights - *Full Moon Hike* - 161 in attendance; *Wild for Wildflowers* walk - 96 people.
 - Eleven programs were canceled due to COVID-19 operation changes.
- Special Event(s):
 - March 7th - The *100 Miles in 100 Days Challenge* Celebration - 88 participants completed the challenge, and 80 of those finishers attended the celebration.

Vulture Mountains Recreation Area and Hassayampa River Preserve (HRP)

- Administrative:
 - Days of operation changed on April 8th with the Preserve being closed Wednesdays.
 - Various HRP staff were reassigned to assist at other parks.
 - Extreme river flooding forced some trail closures.
- Interpretive Services:
 - March – nine programs - 187 people.
 - A few programs were canceled due to stormy weather.
 - April - programs canceled due to COVID-19.
 - New - Social media was utilized to stay connected to the public with educational videos and nature-based posts.
- Maintenance:
 - A large cottonwood tree fell, damaging the water well electrical control panel and narrowly missing the Visitor Center and Guesthouse. It took two days for an emergency tree removal company to remove debris. The Preserve is currently without water, but is open for visitation while the Planning and Development division assesses and repairs the damage.
- Vulture:
 - 100% design plans for the Nature Center and Day Use area at Vulture Mountain Recreation Area are currently being reviewed.

White Tank Mountain Regional Park

- Administrative:
 - Easter 2020 was possibly the quietest in the history of White Tank due to COVID-19 and the group ramadas being closed. Park staff observed many couples picnicking on Easter Day, but very few groups.
- Interpretive Services:
 - March - five interpretive programs - 90 park visitors.
 - Highlights - *Guided Nature Walk on Mule Deer Trail* - 22 participants.
 - New - Social media is being utilized to stay connected to the public with educational videos and nature-based posts.
- Special Event(s):
 - March 7th - The *100 Miles in 100 Days Challenge* - 132 participants and over 100 finishers attended the celebration.
 - Aravaipa Running held the Mesquite Canyon trail-running race in early March with 457 total runners participating.
- Maintenance:
 - The dry weed infestation was tackled in the 40 Family Campground sites.