



Maricopa County Parks & Recreation Department

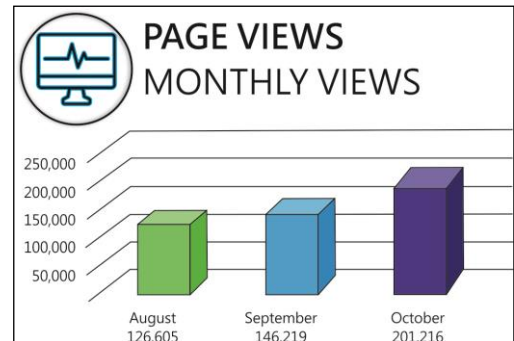
MEMORANDUM

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

Date: November 14, 2019
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 **October 2019**.

- 100 Miles in 100 Days Challenge:** The Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department kicked off its annual 100 Miles in 100 Days Challenge on Friday, November 1, 2019. Those who had preregistered were allowed to begin their Challenge on October 25, 2019. The early start enabled staff to work out any bugs in the forms and app prior to the official start date. As of November 12, there are 1,937 individuals registered for the program. Of those registered, 45.35 percent (565) are annual pass holders. The bulk of the participants, 92.13 percent, stated that they will be completing their Challenge by hiking their miles. This year, Maricopa County also embraced the program by welcoming all county employees to participate and receive one credit towards their Stay Well health plan if they complete the program.
- Website:** Between August 1 and October 31, 2019, the maricopacountyparks.net website experienced an uptick in website traffic and page views. During this period, 119,170 users visited the site. Of those that visited, 66.84 percent were new visitors to the site. A total of 474,037 pages were viewed during the three month period. This trend is expected to continue as the department enters its busy season.



Board of Supervisors Agenda Items:

Date/Status	Tracking Number	Summary
10/9/2019 Approved	C-06-20-159-7-00	Donation Report for August 2019: Cash value of \$267.69 and Non-cash value of \$0.
10/23/2019 Approved	C-30-20-006-G-00	Sponsorship Agreement with the National Environmental Education Foundation (NEEF): Approve a Sponsorship Agreement with NEEF and accept the awarded Sponsorship in the amount of \$2,200. The funds will be used to purchase gloves, rakes and other equipment for trail clean up and maintenance as well as shoreline clean up in Maricopa County Parks.
10/23/2019 Approved	C-06-20-170-7-00	Donation Report for September 2019: Cash value of \$258.51 and Non-cash value of \$0.
11/6/2019 Approved	C-30-20-007-D-00	Memorial Bench Donations: Accept donations for two memorial benches to be placed in Lake Pleasant Regional Park and White Tank Mountain Regional Park.

Administration

The purpose of the Administrative Division is to provide strategic direction, leadership, administrative and financial support to the Director and employees of the department so they can produce the results necessary to achieve the departmental mission and vision. The following information is provided as a high-level overview of the activities of the Administrative Division:

Budget/Financial Report: (Through October 2019)

Name	Appropriation Unit Name	Expenditures			Revenue		
		Appropriation	Detail Budget	Variance	Appropriation	Detail Budget	Variance
General	Non Recurring Non Project						
General	Operating	\$878,730	\$292,698	\$586,032			
General	Parks Restrooms Upgrades	\$37,564	\$7,845	\$29,719			
Spur Cross Ranch Conservation	Non Recurring Non Project	\$250,000		\$250,000			
Spur Cross Ranch Conservation	Operating	\$294,955	\$49,092	\$245,863	\$294,955	\$11,319	\$283,636
Parks and Recreation Grants	Operating	\$2,200		\$2,200	\$22,000	\$148	\$21,852
Parks Souvenir	Operating	\$396,183	\$51,951	\$344,232	\$396,183	\$82,016	\$314,167
Lake Pleasant Recreation Services	Non Recurring Non Project	\$708,000	\$2,600	\$705,400			\$0
Lake Pleasant Recreation Services	Operating	\$3,284,085	\$1,036,268	\$2,247,817	\$3,284,085	\$1,283,043	\$2,001,042
Parks Enhancement	Non Recurring Non Project	\$1,454,670	\$218,217	\$1,236,453			
Parks Enhancement	Operating	\$5,852,602	\$1,967,710	\$3,884,892	\$5,852,602	\$1,768,519	\$4,084,083
Parks Donations	Operating	\$25,404	\$6,850	\$18,554	\$25,404	\$17,631	\$7,773
Parks Donations	Daisy Mountain And Trails	\$160,000		\$160,000			

Human Resources:

- **Welcome New Employees:**
 - Sandra Royal, Contact Station Assistant, Lake Pleasant – 10/7/2019
 - Salvador Ruvalcaba, Park Maintenance Worker, Lake Pleasant – 11/4/2019

Volunteer Hours:

TOTAL Volunteer Hours, by Month	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	YTD Total
FY20 - All Hours	1065	1862	2374	5659	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5301
FY19 - All Hours		2824	2968	4373	9230	10390	10847	13141	12575	7832	0	0	5792
FY18 - All Hours	3506	4936	49115	6682	11841	12353	13804	12148	13250	8708	3813	3422	57557
													0
FY20 - Core Volunteers	943	1691	1811	5231	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4445
FY19 - Core Volunteers	2625	2763	2827	4277	9172	10286	10601	13098	12384	7024	0	0	8215
													0
FY20 - Service Volunteer Hours	122	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	122
FY19 - Service Volunteer Hours	129	61	141	96	59	104	246	43	221	808	0	0	331
													0
Financial Impact, by Month	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	YTD Total
FY20 Financial Impact	\$27,084	\$47,344	\$60,373	\$143,916	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$278,718
FY19 Financial Impact	\$0	\$69,725	\$73,280	\$107,969	\$227,889	\$256,529	\$267,812	\$324,451	\$310,483	\$193,381	\$0	\$0	\$1,831,519
FY18 Financial Impact	\$84,635	\$119,155	\$1,185,636	\$161,303	\$285,842	\$298,201	\$333,229	\$293,253	\$319,855	\$210,211	\$92,046	\$82,607	\$3,465,973

Planning and Development Division

Project Management

- The Parks and Recreation Department Project Manager has been working with contractors on the new Willow Campground at White Tank Mountain Regional Park. The trash enclosure, new gate, and dish-washing station are coming along nicely.
- The Project Manager is currently completing the last work on the Utery Mountain Regional Park campground and archery range electrical project. New crushed granite is being installed in the campsites and archery shooting stalls at the park.
- Parks Development and Planning has completed the alternative design analysis with EPS Group and MCDOT and their environmental consultant for the Waters of the USA permit for the Vulture Mountain Recreation area. The cost for the additional scope of work including design, engineering, and analysis is \$78,458. It is anticipated the cost will be split with MCDOT for the shared expense of additional work in securing the permit.

Park and Open Space Planning

- *Parks, Trails, and Open Space Master Plan - Vision 2030*: The Park and Open Space Planner continues to develop elements of the plan to guide the department into the next 10 years with five years of strategic objects. The second Executive Team meeting was held at DIG Studio in Phoenix on November 4. Agenda items included a review of the scope of work of the prime consultant and public out-reach consultant, a review of the 10-year accomplishments from the 2009 strategic plan, and a review of the ASU visitors survey. This important background sets the stage for the next meeting that will include a review of yet to be completed 2009 strategic plan objectives, which are deemed appropriate to be carried forward and what other objectives may be needed in the next plan to meet our mission and vision.

Trades Crew

- Trade Staff continues to work on the Willow project at White Tank Mountain Regional Park. New ramada roof frames were constructed and the contractor is bead blasting the old frames prior to final re-assembly of the ramadas.
- Trades Electricians modified the well controls for the Lake Pleasant Regional Park Overlook Storage Tank. The sensing probes were adjusted in the tank and re-wired to better define the tank capacity. This repair reduces the amount of automatically controlled water entering the tank, reduces the storage time, and improves water quality for both the Park and Central Arizona Project customers at the Park.
- Trades Electricians invested several days of troubleshooting and repairing a stray voltage concern in the campground electrical system at the campground at McDowell Mountain Regional Park. The electricians also spent time re-splicing wire connections to the campground pedestals in the north campground at McDowell.

Trails Crew

- In September, the Trails Crew completed raking out the new section of Overton Trail from the Go John trailhead to the playground at Cave Creek Regional Park.
- In October, the Trails Crew completed the new trail from Willow campground to Mesquite Trail within the White Tank Mountain Regional Park. The work included adding directional signs and posts.

Maricopa Trail, Sun Circle, and Trail Facilities:

- The following trail segments are currently in progress – 1, 7, 11, 15, 27, 33, 77 and 78.
- Agreement preparation/negotiations:
 - Bureau of Land Management – Waiting for BLM personnel response regarding the use of the route and signage on the proposed route between Estrella Mountain Park and Buckeye Hills Park.
 - City of Phoenix – Draft for Segment 1 and Segment 7 sent to Phoenix Transportation and Parks Departments now going through County Real Estate after County Attorney review.
 - Avondale – Met and reached agreement on the Sun Circle Trail re-route. Rights obtained via Permit.
 - Flood Control District – Received approved plans for the new trailhead on Sun Valley Parkway (Segment 11) August 2019. In process of receiving the permit for construction.
 - MCDOT – Received permit for driveway construction for the trailhead on Sun Valley Parkway October 2019.
 - Bureau of Reclamation/SRP – Segment 27 Trailhead License application preliminarily approved June 2019. Waiting for archeological clearance direction. Soliciting Cultural Resource Survey for the trailhead and connecting trail.
 - Anthem – Segment 15 – The Agreement is scheduled for the Board of Supervisors on 11/20/19. The newly re-routed trail around the new dog park has been inspected and approved.
- Maintenance
 - Segment 78 – Major storm damage inside Lake Pleasant Park was repaired by Trails Crew in October.
 - Segment 14, 15, 16 and 18 – Prickly Pedal route – Sierra Club maintained two miles of Segment 16 on 10/13/2019; Parks maintained three miles of Segment 15 and 16 in October 2019.
 - Segment 20 – Parks maintained east half in October 2019.
 - Segment 22 – Parks maintained entire 16 miles in October 2019.
- Trailheads
 - Segment 11 – Sun Valley Parkway – Received MCDOT Permit.
 - Segment 27 – Bush Highway – Trailhead design completed by MCDOT; BOR License preliminarily approved. Waiting for environmental clearance.
 - Picked up seven REI kiosks for installation this winter. They were purchased by the Maricopa Trail + Parks Foundation.

- Sign Installation, Inventory, and Mapping
 - All segments have been completed except Segment 7 (South Mountain Park) and Segment 25.
- Route Determination – Developing alternate routes for Segment 77 (Vulture Mountain to Lake Pleasant) and Segment 76 (White Tank to Vulture Mountain).

Parks Operations Report

Buckeye Hills Regional Park

- Estrella's maintenance staff are revitalizing Restroom #1 and #2 and are making repairs to the Range's trap house.
- The APS subcontractor is coordinating with park staff to re-seed the access roads used this summer to install the power line to the shooting ranges.

Cave Creek Regional Park

- In October, the park hosted six interpretive programs with 247 participants attending. The *Halloween Howl* was a great success with 188 visitors attending the program.
- On October 12, the *Cave Creek Thriller and Thrasher* event was hosted and 397 mountain bikers register for the event.
- New park hosts are arriving and are being trained to operate Cave Creek entry station, the Nature Center and Spur Cross entry station.

Estrella Mountain Regional Park

- Estrella Park held 13 programs with 747 people in attendance.
- The *Halloween Spooktakular* had 400 people enjoying the new sidewalks, ramadas and spooky stops along the half-mile luminary route.
- Representatives from the Adobe Dam Recreation Area continue to plan for the removal and re-use of the rodeo lights and bleachers.
- Race Timers held a competitive foot race with 77 runners using the Competitive Track.

Lake Pleasant Regional Park

- Lake Pleasant offered 16 interpretive programs in October with 206 program participants. Highlighted programs were the *Morgan City Wash Exploration* and *Sunset/Full Moon* hikes.
- The City of Peoria is currently working with Parks and other agencies related to Lake Pleasant to host a Signature Event (boat racing) in 2020.
- AZGFD (Arizona Game and Fish Department) performed repairs to the bald eagle game camera in preparation for the upcoming nesting season – bald eagle activity in the area has already been observed.
- Park staff met with representatives from the US Geological Services (USGS) and McDowell Sonoran Preserve for an onsite visit to review perspective areas within Lake Pleasant to potentially team up and be a part of the USGS Restoration Assessment and Monitoring Program (RAMPS). The RAMPS program is to implement *Restorennet*, an experimental plant rehabilitation/restoration plot study-area. Other agencies not present, but associated with this program include the Central Arizona Conservation Alliance and Northern Arizona University.

McDowell Mountain Regional Park

- In the month of October there were three large special events:
 - AZ Interscholastic Mountain Bike Race – ~844 participants
 - *Javelina Jundred* 100 mile trail race- ~1100
 - Ragnar trail relay race - ~2700 participants
- Eleven programs with 97 participants including an outreach program at the Fountain Hills Library were held in October.
- 120 coaches and student-athletes of the AZ Interscholastic Cycling League participated in a trail workday at the Competitive Track.
- SWCC (Southwest Wildlife and Conservation Center) board members and Parks HQ staff visited the proposed future site of their shared facility.

San Tan Regional Park

- In October, San Tan hosted 22 programs with 386 participants.
- The park hosted a 100-Mile Challenge informational open house which was attended by 50 people in the morning session and eight in the afternoon.
- The seasonal return of *Trailhead Yoga* with our Core Volunteer instructor brought out 20 participants.
- Thirty children and adults came out for the tortoise feeding and special book reading with an author whose children's book is sold in our Nature Center.

Spur Cross Conservation Area

- In October, the park hosted 13 interpretive programs with 120 participants attending.
- The interpretive ranger and his volunteer trails crew have been repairing and adding fencing around mine shafts.

Usery Mountain Regional Park

- Usery offered seven interpretive programs in October totaling 311 participants.
- Ranger Brennan introduced a new program to his line-up titled "Crazy Ranger Stories"; sharing his years of notable (and mostly) humorous stories. 45 people were in attendance.
- 160 ghosts joined our "ghost ranger" on our annual *Goofy Ghost Walk* held on Saturday, October 26. Families came to the park dressed in costumes and participated in a quarter-mile hike, a costume contest, and an educational critter presentation by the Phoenix Zoo. The event finished with some ghost stories, a bonfire, and s'mores.
- A scout troop donated new signage for our Tortoise Habitat; replacing laminated (paper) flyers with sturdy, wood-engraved signs.

Vulture Mountains Recreation Area and Hassayampa River Preserve (HRP)

- October's visitation reached 1,405 visitors reflecting a 41% increase over October 2018.
- Thirteen interpretive programs and outreaches were held with 136 attendees. Highlights included a discovery station in the Preserve's interpretive garden for National Butterfly and Hummingbird Day and a special bird walk led by AZGFD biologist Troy Corman for eBird Global Big Day, a citizen science bird count.
- Staff set up an information table at the Wickenburg Breast Cancer Walk focusing on the health and wellness benefits of spending time in nature.
- AZ Project WET brought out their first group of young students this fall.
- HRP hosted the Wickenburg Leadership Institute. Both the Park Supervisor and Operation Manager presented during the Environment session.
- Several rare birds and other wildlife sightings occurred, including a badger.
- HRP staff conducted monthly instream flow monitoring with Nature Conservancy staff.
- The park supervisor monitored research conducted by biologists from Montgomery Botanical Garden. They were collecting seeds and voucher specimens from the Preserve's historic palm trees.
- HRP and management staff shadowed the Vulture Mine off-road race with BLM (Bureau of Land Management) staff.
- Planning continues with the Vulture Mountain Nature Center design.

White Tank Mountain Regional Park

- White Tank Park held 19 interpretive programs with 838 park visitors attending.
- The highlighted special program of the month was the annual *Halloween Luminary Walk* with 520 attending.
- Luke Air Force Base brought 40 active duty personnel out for a volunteer clean up afternoon; they helped park maintenance clean the large Area 4 ramadas in preparation for the park's Halloween event.
- Twenty-five employees from Floratec Corporation provided volunteer help for a clean-up day in the park. The group removed all the vegetation from the Family Campground evapotranspiration bed.
- West Valley Trail Alliance hosted a Competitive Track trail maintenance day with 40 young athlete volunteers working hard on prepping the track for the November Arizona Interscholastic Cycling League races.
- West Valley Trail Alliance hosted the second night ride of their White Tank Mountain night series on October 19.
- Ninja Mountain Biking, a park concessionaire, held a mountain bike clinic on November 19 and 20.