

Date: November 16, 2023
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 **September and October 2023**.

Office of the Director

Board of Supervisors Agenda Items:

Date/ Status	Tracking Number	Summary
09/13/2023 Approved	C-30-24-003-X-00	IGA with the City of Surprise: Approve Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with the City of Surprise for shared recreational opportunities, programs, marketing, and events at White Tank Regional Park, Lake Pleasant Regional Park, and Hassayampa River Preserve. The term of the Agreement is 5 years with a provision for automatic renewal for one additional 5-year period unless either party gives 60 days prior notice that it does not want to renew.
09/27/2023 Approved	C-06-24-162-X-00	Donations for Parks and Recreation: In accordance with County Policy A2508, accept the monthly donation report received from Parks and Recreation for August 2023, for a Cash Value of \$685.08.
10/18/2023 Approved	C-06-24-234-X-00	Donations for Parks and Recreation: In accordance with County Policy A2508, accept the monthly donation report received from Parks and Recreation for September 2023, for a Cash Value of \$692.13.
11/1/2023 Approved	C-30-18-004-M-00	Termination of Commercial Management Concessions Agreement with Sea 2 Sea Scuba, LLC: Approve and delegate authority to the Parks Director to give formal notice of the termination of the CMCA with Sea 2 Sea Scuba, LLC. Termination is based upon the failure to provide proof of insurance.
11/1/2023 Approved	C-30-24-006-X-00	Applications for Vulture Mountains Regional Park and Vulture Mountains Recreation Area Trade Names and Trademarks for the Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department: Authorize the Parks Director to complete and submit the electronic/online forms for Vulture Mountains Regional Park and Vulture Mountains Recreation Area trade name and trademark applications to the Arizona Secretary of State's Office and authorize the Parks Director to submit future renewal applications. Trade names and trademarks ensure internal consistency, external control, exclusive naming rights, marketing and promotion, and protection of the brand.
11/1/2023 Approved	C-30-03-027-X-02	<u>Amendments to the Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission Bylaws:</u> Approve amendments to the Bylaws of the Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission. Changes to the Bylaws include (i) clarification of a Commissioner's term until there is a replacement appointed; (ii) meeting attendance requirements for Commissioners; (iii) recognition as "Commissioner Emeritus" for members serving ten (10) or more years; and, (iv) allowing the Chair to reschedule or relocate regular meetings to facilitate a quorum or to offer convenience to the public.



Administration/Finance Division

Parks Visitor Attendance Report (FY24 through August): Page 12

FY24 Budget Report (Period 3)

Report ID:		FIN-BA-MC010		Budget to Actual										Page 1 of 1	
Run Date:		11/13/2023		by Department, Fund and Appropriation Unit Group											
Run Time:		1:48:42 PM		Fiscal Year: 2024 Period: 3											
Dept	Dept Name	Fund	Fund Name	Approp Group	Approp Group Name	Revised Revenue	Actual Revenue	Revenue Variance	Revised Expenditures	Actual Expenditures	Expenditure Variance	Budgeted Structure Balance	Actual Structural Balance	Structural Balance Variance	
D300	Parks and Rec 100	100	General	OPER	Operating	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$316,293	\$215,325	\$100,968	(\$316,293)	(\$215,325)	\$100,968	
D300	Parks and Rec 225	225	Spr Cross Ran	NRNP	NonRecr NonPrit	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$39,999	\$39,999	\$39,999	(\$39,999)		\$39,999	
D300	Parks and Rec 225	225	Spr Cross Ran	OPER	Operating	\$60,213	\$57,811.74	(\$2,401)	\$86,333	\$72,768	\$13,565	(\$26,120)	(\$14,956)	\$11,164	
D300	Parks and Rec 230	230	Parks&Rec Gr	NRNP	NonRecr NonPrit	\$170,199		(\$170,199)	\$170,199	\$1,718	\$168,481	\$0	(\$1,718)	(\$1,718)	
D300	Parks and Rec 239	239	Parks Souvenir	OPER	Operating	\$22,153	\$22,043.59	(\$109)	\$69,034	\$65,374	\$3,660	(\$46,881)	(\$43,330)	\$3,551	
D300	Parks and Rec 240	240	Lk Plsnt Rc Svc	NRNP	NonRecr NonPrit	\$0	\$5,371.79	\$5,372	\$208,749	\$274,146	(\$65,397)	(\$208,749)	(\$268,774)	(\$60,025)	
D300	Parks and Rec 240	240	Lk Plsnt Rc Svc	OPER	Operating	\$1,244,786	\$1,227,676.05	(\$17,110)	\$1,089,844	\$973,418	\$116,426	\$154,942	\$254,258	\$99,316	
D300	Parks and Rec 241	241	Parks Enhncm	NRNP	NonRecr NonPrit	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$344,967	\$201,635	\$143,332	(\$344,967)	(\$201,635)	\$143,332	
D300	Parks and Rec 241	241	Parks Enhncm	OPER	Operating	\$1,465,068	\$1,637,464.81	\$172,397	\$1,868,347	\$1,991,229	(\$122,882)	(\$403,279)	(\$353,764)	\$49,515	
D300	Parks and Rec 243	243	Parks Donation	NRNP	NonRecr NonPrit	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$3,753	\$0	\$3,753	(\$3,753)	\$0	\$3,753	
D300	Parks and Rec 243	243	Parks Donation	OPER	Operating	\$9,540	\$28,305.34	\$18,765	\$9,537	\$1,184	\$8,353	\$3	\$27,122	\$27,119	
D300	Parks and Rec 243	243	Parks Donation	WMD3	DaisyMntTrls	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$6,249	\$6,249	\$6,249	(\$6,249)		\$6,249	
D300	Parks and Rec 296	296	Coronavirus FF	NRNP	NonRecr NonPrit	\$4,600,077	\$331,955.85	(\$4,268,121)	\$4,600,080	\$254,401	\$4,345,679	(\$3)	\$77,555	\$77,558	
Sum:						\$7,572,036	\$3,310,629	(\$4,261,407)	\$8,813,384	\$4,051,196	\$4,762,188	(\$1,241,348)	(\$740,567)	\$500,781	

Contract Administration:

The General Joe Foss Public Shooting Range (Range) is located within the Buckeye Hills Regional Park (under a land patent with the Bureau of Land Management’s Recreation and Public Purpose Act). The Range was constructed in 2007, along with the adjacent MCSO shooting range. Operations at the Range started in 2008 and were managed by a non-profit sportsman club through 2016. In 2016, a Request for an Expression of Interest (LOI) solicitation was published to procure a new non-profit entity to manage the Range; however, no responses were received, and the public Range was closed. In the Spring of 2017, we were approached by the non-profit Arizona State Rifle and Pistol Association (“ASRPA”) to manage the Range through a Special Use Permit. They have successfully managed the Range, primarily on weekends, since 2017.

On October 31, 2023, we were informed as of December 31, 2023, ASRPA will not renew the permit to manage the Range. ASRPA’s General Manager (volunteer) of the Range has moved out of state, and the organization cannot find a qualified replacement. Along with public shooting time, two cities, Goodyear and Buckeye, use the facility occasionally for police training and qualifications.

Steps we are taking in hopes of securing another manager for the Range:

1. We are drafting a solicitation for management, operation, maintenance, and improvement of the Range through a non-profit entity or government agency. Because the Range is on BLM-patented land, we can only have a non-profit or government entity manage the facility. A for-profit entity is not an option. We reconfirmed that with BLM in October.
2. We have notified the Arizona Game & Fish Department and Bureau of Land Management in hopes of securing leads to find a successor to manage the range.



3. The current GM is also reaching out to several shooting clubs and shooting organizations (i.e., Pebble Creek Gun Club and Arizona Citizens Defense League) to see if there is interest in managing the range.

If a non-profit or government entity is not secured to run the Range, we recommend it be closed for public use while we continue looking for a new entity to run it. Our department does not have qualified staff to safely operate the Range, nor do we have a budget for operations.

Human Resources

- Welcome/Promotions/Transfers
 - Alexander Garcia, Promotion, Park Staff Administrator, 9/4/2023
 - Kristopher (Kyle) Swann, Promotion, Trails Specialist, 9/4/2023
 - Andrew Schnapp, Promotion, Trails Specialist, 9/4/2023
 - Rusty Rogers, Promotion, Trails Specialist, 9/4/2023
 - Christopher Flaim, Promotion, Trails Specialist, 9/4/2023
 - Jeanine O'Reilly, Promotion, Procurement Specialist, 9/18/2023
 - Jennifer Waller, Promotion, Deputy Director – Parks, 10/2/2023
 - Boyd Mox, Promotion, Park Maintenance Worker, 10/16/2023
 - Jason Booth, Lateral, Park Assistant, 10/16/2023
 - Cody Ross, Promotion, Park Maintenance Worker, 10/16/2023
 - Charles Tillinghast, Promotion, Park Maintenance Worker, 10/16/2023
 - Marla Chilcote, Contact Station Assistant, Lake Pleasant, 10/16/2023
 - Thomas Habgood, New hire, Contact Station Assistant, 10/18/2023
 - Ezekiel Morphis, New Hire, Interpretive Ranger, 10/18/2023
 - Laura Gillam, New hire, Park Maintenance Worker, 10/23/2023
 - Laura Wenz, New hire, Contact Station Assistant, 10/26/2023
 - Jeff Boehm, New hire, Contact Station Assistant (PT/Temp), 10/26/2023
 - Lee Kelly, County Transfer, Park Maintenance Worker, 10/30/2023
 - Kara Currie-Gonzalez, Promotion, Finance and Administrative Manager. 10/30/2023
- Farewells
 - Steven Heinsma, Park Supervisor, McDowell, 9/13/2023
 - Marica Kon, Contact Station Assistant, McDowell, 9/13/2023
 - Aimee Upton, Administrator, HQ, 10/03/2023
 - Jessica Bland, Park Supervisor, Hassayampa, 10/6/2023
 - Marla Chilcote, Contact Station Assistant, Lake Pleasant, 10/23/2023
 - Ezekiel Morphis, Interpretive Ranger, Lake Pleasant, 10/25/2023
- Vacancies
 - Interpretive Ranger, P33341, Lake Pleasant
 - Contact Station Assistant, Lake Pleasant, P79629
 - Contact Station Assistant, White Tank, P76386
 - Contact Station Assistant, Lake Pleasant, P79630
 - Park Office Assistant Specialized, McDowell, P79630
 - Finance Support Supervisor, Lake Pleasant, P79561
 - Accounting Specialist, Lake Pleasant, P16516
 - Park Custodian, Usery, P80303
 - Park Custodian, Lake Pleasant, P80302
 - Park Supervisor, Usery, P17148
 - Park Supervisor, McDowell, P1480
 - Park Supervisor, Hassayampa, P76938



Park Operations Division

Adapt in Nature:

- Adapt in Nature gives individuals with intellectual disabilities the opportunity to immerse themselves in nature. On Monday, November 13, at Usery Mountain Regional Park, *Adapt in Nature* held its first program day. The City of Peoria brought out 16 participants from their Developmental Disabilities Division (DDD) Day program. Participants started their day with a 45-minute hike down Lost Sheep Trail led by Ranger Derik where they learned about native plants and animals.

The second half of the program was inside the Usery Mountain Regional Park Nature Center. Ranger Shaun laid out different animal skulls and pelts for participants to touch while going over which skulls/pelts belong to which native animal.

We received great feedback from the participants and City of Peoria staff. We hope to continue this program.



Natural Resources

- Continued efforts with the City of Scottsdale and McDowell Sonoran Conservancy to develop a Diamond Wildfire Recovery Plan for McDowell Mountains.
- Planning continues with Interpretive Rangers and Desert Defender Stewards to plan for the 2024 Habitat Enhancement and Desert Defender Programs.
- Worked with the Maricopa County Risk Department to develop a Pesticide Safety Program; this includes training staff and providing workshops to prepare them to test and become certified applicators for the Core and Ornamental category; the workshops will be held in January 2024.
- The Natural Resource Specialist is currently the Southwest Vegetation Management Association president. They hosted their annual conference, "Habitat Enhancement along Arizona River Corridors." The conference was well attended, with over 90 attendees from various regional organizations such as the Department of Forestry and Fire Management, Arizona Game and Fish Department, AZ Department of Agriculture, AZ Department of Transportation, the Gila River Indian Community, and many more. The conference included a full day of presentations with leading professionals discussing ecological restoration, habitat enhancement, herbicide safety, and much more. The second day of the conference was a field day, making stops at several ecological habitat enhancement projects along the Gila River, including the Estrella Mountain Regional Park riparian habitat enhancement and tamarisk removal area, the 5-acre pollinator garden project, and other El Mirage, Flood Control, and AZGFD projects. To learn more about the SWVMA, visit [SWVMA Fall Conference 2023 – SWVMA](#).



Volunteer Hours (FY24 through October):

TOTAL Volunteer Hours, by month	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	YTD Total	Year End Total	Year End % Change
FY24 - All Hours	3,759	4,148	4,158	7,290	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	19,355	19,355	-5%
FY23 - All Hours	3,927	4,399	4,844	7,201	10,898	12,187	11,935	11,927	12,756	9,092	4,534	4,335	20,371	98,035	0%
FY22 - All Hours	3,268	3,362	4,038	8,069	11,154	13,295	13,935	10,061	13,144	8,954	4,835	3,777	18,737	97,892	3%

Financial Impact of Volunteers, by Month	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	YTD Total	Year End Total	Hourly Rate
FY24 Financial Impact	\$119,536	\$131,906	\$132,224	\$231,822	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$615,489	\$615,489	\$31.80
FY23 Financial Impact	\$117,614	\$131,750	\$145,078	\$215,670	\$326,395	\$365,001	\$357,453	\$357,214	\$382,042	\$272,305	\$135,793	\$129,833	\$610,111	\$2,936,148	\$29.95
FY22 Financial Impact	\$93,269	\$95,951	\$115,245	\$230,289	\$318,335	\$379,439	\$397,705	\$287,141	\$375,130	\$255,547	\$137,991	\$107,796	\$534,754	\$2,793,838	\$28.54

Special Days of Service event listings:	Date	Attendance	Hours
Estrella - Summer Sunday	9/3/2023	1	4
Lake Clean-Up	9/6/2023	9	36
Estrella - Clean-Up	9/10/2023	27	108
Lake Clean-Up	9/13/2023	6	24
Cave Creek - Seed Garden	10/25/2023	6	12
Usery - Intel Clean-Up	10/27/2023	10	38
Lake Pleasant - Volunteer 13K	10/30/2023	5	10



Parks & Recreation

41835 N. Castle Hot Springs Rd.
Morristown, AZ 85342

Trades

- During September, Trades Crew
 - Completed 30 park service calls.
 - Completed 18 calls for locator service.
 - Adobe - Repaired a section of fencing struck by a vehicle
Held meetings for a fencing project and a pre-construction meeting on the host site structure.
 - Desert Outdoor Center - Completed LED lighting project.
 - Lake Pleasant – Meeting regarding Morgan City Wash area to determine action plans for fencing repairs.
Stabilizing and clearing along Agua Fria due to storm damage at Table Mesa.
 - Usery - Removed evaporator coolers off the rooftop at the maintenance building.
 - White Tank - De-energized all power in area #4 and prepped for upcoming Ramada upgrades.
- During October, the Trades Crew
 - Completed 43 calls for park service.
 - Completed 15 locator service calls.
 - Repaired septic pumps at Bajada.
 - Excavated roadside at Lake Pleasant to investigate and repair a water leak.
 - Excavated and relocated utilities at the Adobe host site.
 - Retrofitted interior light fixtures to LED at San Tan.
 - Repairs to the telescope retracting roof at the Desert Outdoor Center.
 - Weekly inspections of Evaporative Transportation (ET) beds and water wells.
 - Installation of the new water meter at Paradise Valley.
 - Emergency water leak repair at McDowell.
 - Daily work order requests.
 - Risk provided Forklift training for Trades and Trails.

Trails

- Maricopa Trail:
 - Segment 11 and Sun Valley Parkway Trailhead: Inspection and trimming of overgrown vegetation, maintenance, and installed signs on construction detour.
 - Segment 6: ten miles replaced damaged/missing signs and moved signs from wrong locations.
 - Segments 16, 18 and 22: at Spur Cross - Eco-Counter troubleshooting.
 - A newly created Maricopa Trail crew (four staff) started in October.
- Parks:
 - Estrella
 - Partner meetings with Junior National Golf to review contractor bids and make a final selection.
 - Took American Conservation Experience field supervisor to inspect work areas for upcoming ACE projects.
 - Lake Pleasant
 - Pipeline Canyon - maintenance work completed.
 - Beardsley Trail - repaired erosion damage and cleared over-growth to the south end of the trail (installing a new roll-over gate before the Prickly Pedal Race).
 - Roadrunner Trail - repaired erosion damage near the Bobcat Area. Repaired drains on a spur trail and closed vandal route from the Bobcat Area.
 - Spur Cross: Cultural Resource Survey for Interpretive Trail (Site 50) was completed by the contractor and submitted to the Bureau of Land Management.



Development Projects:

- Buckeye Hills: Water Well Project Kick-Off completed.
- Lake Pleasant: Completed rebuilding Wild Burro ET Bed.
- McDowell: Researching off-grid solar power for host sites in Ironwood campground.
- San Tan: The Goldmine Trailhead project went out for bid. Successful contractor selected for \$2.4M.
- Multiple locations:
 - Completed RFP (request for proposal) for interactive trail signage.
 - Conducting monthly meetings with consultants for Cave Creek, Estrella, McDowell, and White Tank construction projects.

FY24 - Park CIP Project Overview

07/01/23 - 10/31/23

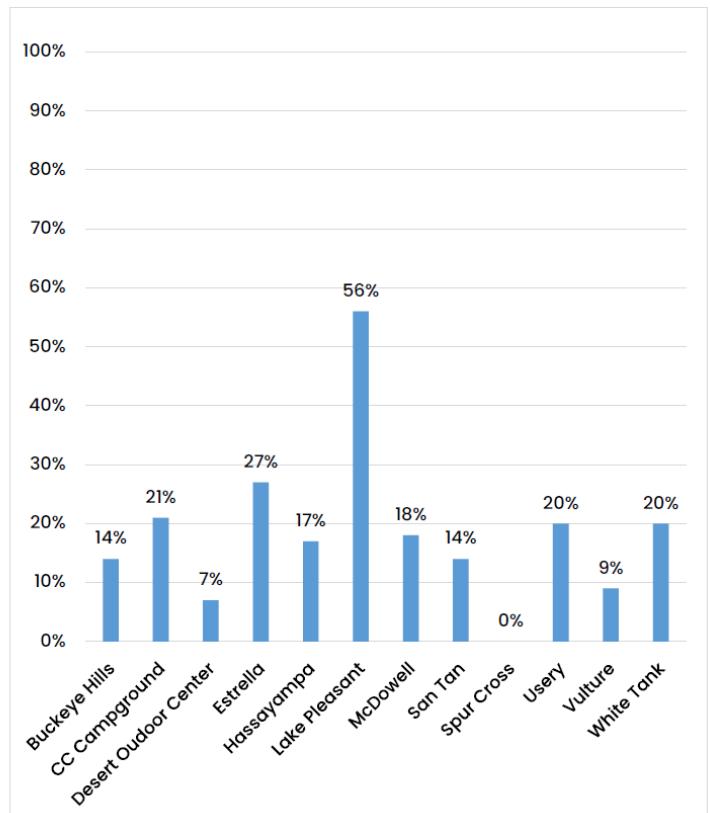
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PARKS

Name	Start	Finish
Buckeye Hills	Mon 7/3/23	Thu 12/19/24
CC Campground	Tue 1/3/23	Wed 7/23/25
Desert Outdoor Center	Fri 7/28/23	Fri 7/19/24
Estrella	Mon 1/9/23	Wed 6/10/26
Hassayampa	Mon 5/1/23	Fri 4/12/24
Lake Pleasant	Tue 1/3/23	Fri 6/27/25
McDowell	Tue 1/3/23	Tue 5/20/25
San Tan	Mon 5/1/23	Mon 6/30/25
Spur Cross	Mon 1/8/24	Wed 7/3/24
Usery	Mon 8/7/23	Fri 3/1/24
Vulture	Mon 7/3/23	Thu 10/2/25
White Tank	Mon 1/9/23	Tue 12/9/25

% COMPLETE



Parks

- **Cave Creek Regional Park**

- Events:

- Hosted the following events in October: two family reunions, a wedding, a trail service and landscape project, MCSO Tactical Rescue Training, and the Aravaipa *Thrasher/Thriller* two-day run event with approximately 400 participants.

- **Desert Outdoor Center**

- Events:

- Once again, Ranger Eric organized the annual *Bats & Buzzards on the Bridge* special event in Wickenburg on Friday, September 29. Rangers Kevin and Shaun assisted with the event at which over 300 people attended to see the many vultures and bats flying around that evening.
- Saints Simon and Jude, Summit Community Church, and Grace Christian Church of Arizona traveled to our facility for weekend retreats and youth day events. Over 200 people stayed overnight in our dormitory facilities for the weekend events.

- Outreach:

- On September 10, Rangers Shaun and Derik led a requested outreach for 82 of the American Heritage Girls at White Tank Regional Park. They enjoyed a summer night *Scorpion Safari* hike.
- Ranger Nikki partnered with the Fountain Hills Library to offer a *Desert Mammals* outreach that 11 people attended.
- On October 7, Rangers Steve and Shaun represented the Department at the Urban Wildlife Conservation Day at Rio Salado Audubon, which approximately 250 people attended. The rangers were able to share information about upcoming programs and conservation projects and introduce a few of our animal ambassadors to the participants.
- Ranger Nikki, Park Assistants Jared (User) and Doug (Lake), and Donna from HQ participated in the County's wellness and benefits fair on October 10 and 12. They promoted the Parks' trails and programs and encouraged employees to take advantage of the annual pass discount for County employees.

- Center Programming:

- In October, the Rangers hosted 13 schools, bringing over 3,100 students, teachers, and chaperones to participate in our environmental educational programming. Looking at lake microorganisms through a microscope in Aquatic Life continues to be one of the most popular programs for all ages.

- Park Programming:

- Rangers offered 72 programs across all parks in September with a total participation of 562 visitors. The most popular programs were *Desert Critters*, *Amazing Arthropods*, and *Rattlesnakes*.
- During October, the interpretive rangers offered 54 programs with a total attendance of 425 people. Our drop-in discovery stations, *Sunset Scorpion Walk*, and *Creatures of the Night Walks* continue to be well attended by visitors.

- Training:

- The quarterly Ranger meeting was held at the Desert Botanical Gardens where rangers were able to tour the interpretive trails onsite and meet with garden staff to discuss their upcoming programs and garden projects.

- Volunteers:

- To celebrate National Clean-up Day on September 16, Ranger Kevin led a group of 26 people out on the trails of White Tank Mountain Regional Park to pick up some trailside trash while also learning many interesting facts about our Sonoran Desert.



- **Estrella Mountain Regional Park**
 - Maintenance:
 - Continued work on the irrigation system's electronic issues.

- **Hassayampa River Preserve**
 - Natural Resources:
 - Held semi-annual butterfly monitoring event.
 - Events:
 - Hosted the Wickenburg Leadership Institute.
 - Projects:
 - Construction began on the new viewing platforms for Palm Lake.
 - Construction continues on the Visitor Center and exhibits.

- **Lake Pleasant Regional Park**
 - Events:
 - The first planning meeting for the 2024 Prickly Pedal race was held on October 5.
 - Castle Creek Triathlon was held at Lake Pleasant North Park on October 7, with 255 participants.
 - On October 25-27, 150 Phoenix Fire Fighters, as part of Arizona Task Force One, Urban Search and Rescue, conducted a 3-day/2-night natural disaster exercise at the Castle Creek Boat Ramp parking lot. MCSO also conducted exercises and participated in the exercise.
 - Operation:
 - Team building efforts were held with the Nav-Aides, Maintenance Crew, the Park Assistant, and Park Rangers to assess and test the old fleet of kayaks with representatives from REI.
 - Maricopa County Department of Transportation met to discuss and schedule guard rail clear-back (invasive weeds). Work began October 9 and spanned through the whole month; the bypass road was completed, and the North Park area is scheduled in January.
 - The Volunteer Coordinator and Lake Pleasant Park Supervisor met with the Program Coordinator of Probation Operations to discuss opportunities for juvenile probationers to volunteer at the lake to gain skills and learn about natural resources.
 - Risk Department Inspections were conducted at all facilities and storage areas. It was a good inspection with only a few considerations for remediation.
 - Volunteers:
 - Approximately 20 employees from "Highway 85 Creative" held a clean-up event on September 6.
 - On Mondays, the Clean-Up Crew brought out 1-2 weekly volunteers to help pick up litter.

- **McDowell Mountain Regional Park**
 - Events:
 - *Jangover Night Run* was hosted on September 23. 419 participants started at the Pemberton Trailhead running distances up to a blistering 75K.

- **San Tan Mountain Regional Park**
 - Events:
 - On September 26, a yoga class was held at the main trailhead and is one of the park's more popular classes.
 - The Park Supervisor attended a Town of Queen Creek Park Ranger staff meeting to thank them for their continued support at the Goldmine Trailhead parking lot. They help patrol the parking lot and communicate any unusual activity.



○ Maintenance:

- On September 23, six members of the bike group Sheddars, joined by park staff, performed some needed trail work on the Stargazer Trail. This is one of the more popular trails within the park.
- Park Maintenance staff installed new linoleum flooring in the maintenance office.



● **Spur Cross Ranch Conservation Area**

○ Maintenance:

- A new mileage sign has been added to the Dragonfly Trail in Boca Grande Wash, and a directional sign has been installed along Spur Cross Road.
- Crushed gravel was spread around the Host Entry Station and picnic area in the parking lot.
- A large, eroded section of the Spur Cross Trail was filled in and raked close to the main creek crossing.
- Additional directional signs, mileage signs, and "To Parking Lot" signs were installed on Dragonfly and Spur Cross Trail to improve park visitors' way-finding and safety.

○ Natural Resources:

- The biannual Parks Butterfly Count was conducted on September 23. Unfortunately, the count occurred on a cloudy day, so only four species were observed.

○ Projects:

- The Town of Cave Creek installed a fire hydrant along Spur Cross Road close to the Dragonfly Trail and Jewel of the Creek Preserve.

● **Usery Mountain Regional Park**

○ Volunteers:

- The Intel Corporation provided employee volunteers for a group cleaning event on October 27. The ten volunteers worked for four hours clearing and raking weeds and rocks in the A&B group camping area.
- Several Maricopa County Adult Probation clients have worked court-assigned community service hours this month. The clients are tasked with sweeping, picking weeds, and picking up trash. The Park Assistant supervises their work and sends their information to Adult Probation when complete.

○ Events:

- Aravaipa Running held its annual Stunner Night Run and Mountain Bike event, and over 500 people participated.

○ Maintenance:

- A new 3D Elk (Large) target was installed on the 3D course.
- Staff completed approximately 90% of the remodel of the maintenance building offices.



- A strong monsoon storm traveled through on September 12 and 13. The storm leveled several mature saguaros and palo verde trees. Staff worked several days on clearing out tree and cacti debris, which blocked two popular trails, Moon Rock and Chain Fruit. The storm also damaged and toppled a large shade structure over the playground in Area #10. The playground remains closed.
- Projects:
 - The Trades Crew demolished Restroom #9. This restroom has been out of commission for several years. This area now provides a fantastic platform for a future Ramada area.
- Training:
 - The MCSO Search and Rescue Division held a two-day (9/16 & 9/17) training course in the Nature Center classroom.
- **White Tank Mountain Regional Park**
 - Natural Resources:
 - We featured a National Clean-up Day hike, an Invasive Species Removal effort, and our Butterfly Monitoring Program.
 - Events:
 - On October 14, the American Leadership Academy's Guardian Invitational Junior High Cross County Team ran a new event with over 40 participants from various valley schools.
 - Projects:
 - The materials for Area 4's ramadas were delivered this month and the electricians prepped for the new installation. Demolition of the old ramadas began in October.
 - Volunteers:
 - The White Tank Mountain Conservancy held a litter pick-up day on September 9 and October 14. The events were a huge success.



Maricopa County Parks Visitor Report
FY24, through October 2023

FY24	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June
FY23	Jul 22	Aug 22	Sep 22	Oct 22	Nov 22	Dec 22	Jan 23	Feb 23	Mar 23	Apr 23	May 23	Jun 23
FY22	Jul 21	Aug 21	Sep 21	Oct 21	Nov 21	Dec 21	Jan 22	Feb 22	Mar 22	Apr 22	May 22	Jun 22
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
San Tan Park	3,680	4,209	8,094	13,823								
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
FY22	3,753	4,506	4,105	9,045	18,584	21,434	30,452	26,402	29,732	13,033	7,574	4,506
FY21	8,080	7,029	11,102	16,676	27,144	20,844	36,069	34,131	30,333	14,658	10,262	5,752
Spur Cross	130	118	488	1,575								
FY23	180	316	488	1,976	4,789	3,578	6,430	6,477	8,221	4,900	1,139	586
FY22	299	395	500	1,484	2,859	4,031	7,069	8,168	5,818	4,352	1,211	494
FY21	171	121	354	1,984	3,826	5,218	6,273	4,695	7,886	4,093	1,318	620
Usery Mtn Park	7,169	6,670	10,119	17,968								
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
FY22	3,926	2,811	5,039	14,212	16,450	38,086	29,834	30,249	34,433	22,465	9,316	5,949
FY21	5,981	7,587	9,683	18,705	33,071	28,940	41,117	31,167	31,289	15,370	9,282	5,111
White Tank	4,393	6,164	9,396	17,812								
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
FY22	4,923	4,068	5,201	17,768	20,775	42,163	36,298	35,679	40,771	24,697	11,293	6,807
FY21	8,801	7,667	11,991	20,736	31,836	34,425	42,320	36,939	37,285	17,217	13,590	6,415
Hassayampa	339	411	795	1,133								
FY23	463	546	671	1,202	1,500	912	1,535	1,610	2,573	2,366	1,398	840
FY22	286	333	423	1,105	2,669	1,790	1,771	2,096	2,850	2,286	1,338	554
FY21	855	632	840	1,681	1,984	1,204	2,014	1,786	2,363	1,672	1,513	555
Lake Pleasant	146,522	76,963	81,319	73,010								
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
FY22	88,853	62,651	64,323	50,169	38,347	45,239	35,415	44,353	90,764	152,545	147,980	137,694
FY21	101,160	96,366	79,426	58,720	40,177	22,387	27,877	25,987	42,967	59,969	91,403	76,394
DOC	50	80	97	796								
FY23	183	225	151	639	972	1,302	875	493	2,516	1,618	1,855	402
FY22	0	0	0	0	43	0	84	1,178	1,160	2,276	2,071	506
FY21	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Agua Fria	6	6	0	0								
FY23		113	0	20	92	32	39	41	62	342	0	0
System Total	166,687	100,011	122,645	156,339	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
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
FY22	105,569	78,550	86,743	114,166	123,206	196,165	184,295	189,105	257,501	266,327	194,270	164,652
FY21	131,408	125,905	123,223	141,825	179,074	150,829	198,288	170,892	199,845	137,433	140,558	102,412