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# MEMORANDUM

**Date:** January 16, 2025  
**To:** Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission  
**From:** Jennifer Waller, Director  
**Re:** Director’s Summary of Current Events

Listed below are the department's activities during December 2024.

## BOARD OF SUPERVISORS AGENDA ITEMS:

Date/Status	Tracking Number	Summary
12/11/24 Approved	C-06-25-194-X-00	<p><b>COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS FUNDING FOR THE NEW RIVER COMMUNITY PARK PLAYGROUND RENOVATION</b></p> <p>Authorize the Community Solutions Funding Proposal request for the New River Community Park, as managed by Kiwanis Club of New River, Playground Renovation in the amount of \$500,000 with an expected start date of December 11, 2024. The Board of Supervisors’ Community Solutions Funding (CSF) is primarily intended to cover the cost of initiatives that carry the potential of advancing Maricopa County’s Strategic Goals and provide a clear public benefit for Maricopa County residents.</p>
12/11/24 Approved	C-30-09-026-3-01	<p><b>AMENDMENT FOUR TO MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT WITH KIWANIS CLUB OF NEW RIVER</b></p> <p>Approve and execute Amendment Four (“Amendment Four”) to the Management Agreement (“Agreement”) between Maricopa County and Kiwanis Club of New River (“Kiwanis”) (C-30-09-029-3-01) to extend the term for twenty (20) years beginning April 4, 2028, through April 3, 2048, with a renewal option, and construction of new playground to the New River Community Park. Community Solutions Funds in the amount not-to-exceed \$500,000 will be used to pay for the cost of the new playground.</p>



**ADMINISTRATION/FINANCE DIVISION:**

**PARKS VISITOR ATTENDANCE REPORT (FY25 THROUGH DECEMBER):**

FY25	Jul-24	Aug-24	Sep-24	Oct-24	Nov-24	Dec-24	Jan-25	Feb-25	Mar-25	Apr-25	May-25	Jun-25
FY24	Jul-23	Aug-23	Sep-23	Oct-23	Nov-23	Dec-23	Jan-24	Feb-24	Mar-24	Apr-24	May-24	Jun-24
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
<b>Cave Creek</b>	1,359	1,291	2,096	5,972	12,216	11,866						
FY24	1,266	1,621	3,312	9,690	12,328	12,736	13,249	14,271	17,256	12,085	4,392	1,566
FY23	1,373	2,028	2,551	8,499	13,383	13,384	14,534	15,537	19,650	14,181	6,299	2,727
FY22	1,381	1,198	2,515	6,747	7,873	15,242	13,502	13,094	18,600	13,639	3,764	2,737
<b>Estrella</b>	1,697	2,268	4,180	4,704	10,381	9,037						
FY24	1,864	2,003	5,174	6,395	10,104	9,024	12,047	11,453	17,739	10,452	5,525	2,967
FY23	2,342	2,644	3,346	6,640	8,382	8,022	12,165	16,631	18,998	14,597	5,346	4,277
FY22	1,184	1,278	2,605	5,891	7,398	12,222	14,310	12,180	15,092	13,180	4,560	3,519
<b>McDowell Mtn</b>	957	1,732	2,853	14,766	13,601	15,036						
FY24	1,268	1,766	3,851	14,137	13,901	15,071	15,379	15,388	17,288	9,778	5,090	4,980
FY23	1,685	1,845	3,792	13,861	18,134	17,277	17,201	16,816	22,719	15,714	5,747	2,418
FY22	964	1,310	2,032	7,745	8,208	15,958	15,560	15,706	18,281	17,854	5,163	1,886
<b>San Tan Park</b>	2,986	4,401	7,476	11,580	23,690	23,614						
FY24	3,680	4,209	8,094	13,823	22,089	23,452	28,344	26,251	27,136	16,149	10,300	5,244
FY23	4,215	6,029	7,407	14,861	23,586	20,889	26,361	25,488	30,452	18,996	9,836	6,486
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
<b>Spur Cross</b>	125	180	346	1,166	4,794	4,779						
FY24	130	118	488	1,575	6,699	4,511	6,053	7,258	8,282	4,917	1,184	241
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
<b>Usery Mtn Park</b>	8,517	9,233	10,223	16,648	33,016	29,963						
FY24	7,169	6,670	10,119	17,968	32,940	34,058	34,879	37,369	44,888	26,124	14,814	8,118
FY23	6,500	6,544	7,043	16,879	26,760	24,845	29,889	29,695	44,722	29,472	13,158	8,231
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
<b>White Tank</b>	4,285	5,302	7,123	15,727	33,197	31,583						
FY24	4,393	6,164	9,396	17,812	26,356	28,524	33,741	39,129	46,464	25,763	13,906	6,682
FY23	7,264	8,845	9,345	20,459	27,457	26,239	38,467	39,100	50,150	29,236	13,361	8,585
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
<b>Hassayampa</b>	268	380	655	968	1,882	1,391						
FY24	339	411	795	1,133	1,752	1,536	1,461	1,951	2,716	2,375	1,238	471
FY23	463	546	671	1,202	1,500	912	1,535	1,610	2,573	2,366	1,398	840
FY22	286	333	423	1,105	2,669	1,790	1,771	2,096	2,850	2,286	1,338	554
<b>Lake Pleasant</b>	141,534	94,866	78,349	58,878	52,444	42,847						
FY24	146,522	76,963	81,319	73,010	47,229	37,638	42,195	62,353	95,518	101,975	146,615	157,420
FY23	146,746	87,426	95,022	78,576	56,935	48,903	55,380	64,152	92,599	146,533	142,552	153,447
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
<b>DOC</b>	343	323	200	485	1,060	711						
FY24	50	80	97	796	496	856	452	847	1,389	2,087	1,878	960
FY23	183	225	151	639	972	1,302	875	493	2,516	1,618	1,855	402
FY22	0	0	0	0	43	0	84	1,178	1,160	2,276	2,071	506
<b>Agua Fria</b>	38	0	0	24	79	67						
FY24	6	6	0	0	7	97	130	112	192	232	149	0
FY23	0	113	0	20	92	32	39	41	62	342	0	0
<b>System Total</b>	162,109	119,976	113,501	130,918	186,360	170,894	0	0	0	0	0	0
FY24	166,687	100,011	122,645	156,339	173,901	167,503	187,930	216,382	278,868	211,937	205,091	188,649
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



**FY25 BUDGET REPORT (THROUGH PERIOD 06):**

Report ID: FIN-BA-MC010 Budget to Actual Page 1 of 1  
 Run Date: 01/10/2025 by Department, Fund and Appropriation Unit Group  
 Run Time: 7:09:37 AM Fiscal Year: 2025 Period: 6

Dept	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	100	General	NRNP	NonRecr NonPrjt	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$81,360	\$30,865	\$50,495	(\$81,360)	(\$30,865)	\$50,495
D300	100	General	OPER	Operating	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$653,448	\$532,096	\$121,352	(\$653,448)	(\$532,096)	\$121,352
D300	225	Spr Cross Ranch	NRNP	NonRecr NonPrjt	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$62,502	\$50,000	\$12,502	(\$62,502)	(\$50,000)	\$12,502
D300	225	Spr Cross Ranch	OPER	Operating	\$173,454	\$138,635.83	(\$34,818)	\$174,079	\$159,769	\$14,310	(\$625)	(\$21,133)	(\$20,508)
D300	230	Parks&Rec Grant	NRNP	NonRecr NonPrjt	\$13,002	\$280,603.89	\$267,602	\$13,002	\$13,002	\$0	\$0	\$280,604	\$280,604
D300	239	Parks Souvenir	OPER	Operating	\$175,002	\$117,513.95	(\$57,488)	\$175,228	\$164,765	\$10,463	(\$226)	(\$47,251)	(\$47,025)
D300	240	Lk Plsnt Rc Svc	NRNP	NonRecr NonPrjt	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,107,246	\$347,172	\$760,074	(\$1,107,246)	(\$347,172)	\$760,074
D300	240	Lk Plsnt Rc Svc	OPER	Operating	\$2,213,076	\$2,231,819.59	\$18,744	\$2,222,383	\$2,336,641	(\$114,258)	(\$9,307)	(\$104,821)	(\$95,514)
D300	241	Parks Enhncmnt	NRNP	NonRecr NonPrjt	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$637,752	\$432,132	\$205,620	(\$637,752)	(\$432,132)	\$205,620
D300	241	Parks Enhncmnt	OPER	Operating	\$3,772,068	\$3,522,364.56	(\$249,703)	\$3,788,004	\$3,999,767	(\$211,763)	(\$15,936)	(\$477,402)	(\$461,466)
D300	243	Parks Donations	NRNP	NonRecr NonPrjt	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$0	(\$15,000)	\$15,000	\$15,000
D300	243	Parks Donations	OPER	Operating	\$19,074	\$36,414.31	\$17,340	\$19,074	\$4,575	\$14,500	\$0	\$31,840	\$31,840
D300	243	Parks Donations	WMD3	DaisyMtnTrls	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$12,498	\$12,498	\$0	(\$12,498)	\$0	\$12,498
<b>Sum:</b>					<b>\$6,365,676</b>	<b>\$6,327,352</b>	<b>(\$38,324)</b>	<b>\$8,961,576</b>	<b>\$8,057,780</b>	<b>\$903,796</b>	<b>(\$2,595,900)</b>	<b>(\$1,730,428)</b>	<b>\$865,472</b>

**HUMAN RESOURCES:**

**Welcome/Promotions/Transfers:**

- David Jordan – Rehire – Deputy Director – Parks and Recreation - HQ – 12/30/2024
- Andrew Torres – Promotion – Park Maintenance Worker – San Tan – 12/23/2024
- Emily Hogan – Transfer – Contact Station Assistant – White Tanks – 12/9/2024

**Farewells:**

- Don Harris – Park Supervisor – Cave Creek – 12/18/2024

**Current Vacancies:**

- P15449 Contact Station Assistant – Lake Pleasant
- P76865 Contact Station Assistant – Cave Creek
- P80302 Park Custodian – Lake Pleasant
- P19536 Park Maintenance Worker – Estrella Mountain
- P76932 Park Maintenance Worker – San Tan
- P77031 Park Maintenance Worker – White Tank
- P1481 Park Supervisor – White Tank
- P17148 Park Supervisor – Utery



**PARK OPERATIONS DIVISION:**

**VOLUNTEERS:**

**Lake Pleasant:**

The Ocean Conservancy and American Express hosted a large shoreline clean-up on December 7th.

**Hours (FY25 through December)**

TOTAL Volunteer Hours, by month	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	YTD Total
FY25 - All Hours	3,701	3,338	4,187	6,273	10,495	11,605	0	0	0	0	0	0	39,599
FY24 - All Hours	3,759	4,148	4,158	7,290	10,170	11,379	12,796	11,492	12,023	7,957	5,319	4,409	40,904
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	43,456
Financial Impact of Volunteers, by Month	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	YTD Total
FY25 Financial Impact	\$123,946	\$111,790	\$140,223	\$210,083	\$351,478	\$388,651	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,326,171
FY24 Financial Impact	\$119,536	\$131,906	\$132,224	\$231,822	\$323,406	\$361,852	\$406,913	\$365,446	\$382,331	\$253,033	\$169,144	\$140,206	\$1,300,747
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	\$1,301,507

**TRAILS:**

**Maricopa Trail:**

- Segment 3 – Bush Highway Trailhead Parking Lot – repainted lines, installed signs, and installed a new pipe rail fence to prevent vehicles from climbing the hill behind the parking lot.



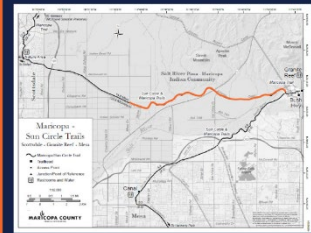
- Segment 2 - Temporarily closed due to Bald Eagles nesting along the trail. We are working with the Arizona Game and Fish Department to monitor the progress of this nesting season. Last year, several eaglets were successfully fled. This year, the same pair returned with reports of two eggs already in the nest.

**MARICOPA COUNTY**  
PARKS & RECREATION

**TEMPORARY TRAIL CLOSURE**

Segment Two of the Maricopa Trail (highlighted in orange on the map) is **TEMPORARILY CLOSED** until June 15 in recognition of the Arizona Game and Fish Department's Bald Eagle Protective Management program.

Should Maricopa County's Parks and Recreation Department receive notice before June 15 to reopen the area, our team will update the information on the Granite Reef and Bush Highway kiosks.





### **BUCKEYE HILLS REGIONAL PARK:**

The County and the City of Buckeye entered into an Inter-Governmental Agreement, whereas, as of the effective date, the City of Buckeye is responsible for the full management and maintenance of the General Joe Foss Shooting Range. The public portion of the range is anticipated to be open no later than the week of October 6, 2025.

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

- **Center Programming:**
  - 29 programs to 4 schools – 865 participated. Aquatic Life was the most popular program for December of 2024, being taught 7 times.
- **Park Programming:**
  - 71 park programs - 685 participants. Our most popular programs continued to be our various discovery stations, especially the ones focused on meeting our wildlife ambassadors. Stargazing is also exceptionally popular.

### **ESTRELLA MOUNTAIN REGIONAL PARK:**

The Junior National Foundation at Tres Rios Golf Course offers free golf to junior golfers, especially at-risk youth. They collaborate with organizations like the SW Section of the PGA's Firebirds, US Kids Golf, and the First Tee of Phoenix. This fall, they ran their first PGA Junior League, which included internal events, practices, and travel, all free to participants. PGA General Manager Bill Shea led the team in organizing practices and events, supported by PGA Members Jake DeYoung and Derrold Theon.

### **HASSAYAMPA RIVER PRESERVE:**

- **Events:**
  - Students competing in the Arizona State Envirothon conducted their training at the Preserve in preparation for the statewide event.
- **Volunteers:**
  - Friends of Hassayampa graciously donated a custom snake enclosure and a habitat enclosure for our Sonoran Mud Turtle.

### **MCDOWELL MOUNTAIN REGIONAL PARK:**

- **Natural Resources:**
  - The supervisor met with the Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management staff and interested contractors regarding the upcoming defensible space clearing project.
- **Projects:**
  - A substantial water leak was detected, located, and repaired near the North Trail parking lot at the Northwest end.

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

- **Events:**
  - December 6, 2024 - Equine Trail Sports - 6 participants.





- December 6-8, 2024 - Aravaipa Running's Frenzy Run and Ride - 900 runners and 200 cyclists.
- December 14, 2024 - Zia Ride's Dawn to Dusk mountain bike race - 900 participants.

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

- **Volunteers:**

- The Sun City Hiking Club came out to perform their annual work project on December 12, 2024. The group carried two new plank bridges approximately 1/4 mile down to the Jewel of the Creek crossing and replaced the old weathered bridges. The Club also dug out some erosion control drains on the Dragonfly Trail.



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

- **Training:**

- Finishing out the volunteer training for the season. Volunteers could also attend snake training to relocate snakes within gathering areas properly.



### **VULTURE MOUNTAIN REGIONAL PARK:**

Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department (MCPRD) and Maricopa County Department of Transportation (MCDOT) entered into an Inter-departmental Agreement (IDA), where MCDOT has the responsibilities of a construction manager for Phase II and Phase III improvements.

