ARIZONA STATE PARKS & TRAILS

Transformation & Achievement

FY19 ANNUAL REPORT

SIXTY-TWO YEARS OF Recreation

AZSTATEPARKS.COM
I joined Arizona State Parks and Trails in 2019 and began my work to create a mission-focused agency that strives to serve the public through conservation, recreation, and customer service. My three main focus areas for this agency are personnel, process, and partnerships.

Arizona State Parks and Trails relies on customers in a way that only a handful of Arizona state agencies do. Because we do not receive money from the general fund, our customers sustain and support both the parks and the staff. We’ve seen revenue increases over the past several years, and that can’t happen without more people coming to and staying in the parks – which is why providing amazing experiences for our visitors is our top priority. We strive to create adventures and memories for the people who choose to visit a state park over a national, county, or city park.

Fiscal year 19 was a year of transformation and achievement for the agency. For the ninth year in a row, we saw increased visitation to the parks. We added amenities, increased our outreach, and strengthened our programs internally. Our partnerships with the legislature, tribes, volunteers, and outside groups helped spread the word about the diversity of activities and scenes you can find in state parks. Transparency and accountability is the approach we are using with the legislature and our public.

We have parks that showcase history of Arizona and of the people who were here before us. Our parks have campgrounds, cabins, boat-in campsites, hiking trails, and group sites. We offer guided nature walks, star parties, full moon hikes, festivals, lectures, demonstrations, and concerts. You can come for the day or stay for the week. We show off the red rocks of Sedona, the stunning hidden beauty of Patagonia Lake, and the best ways to enjoy the Colorado River. You can learn about life in a mining or Old West town or study ruins left by the Hopi people – all in an Arizona state park.

There’s so much to see and do, so I invite you to go explore your parks and start your next adventure!
To create your next experience with family and friends in a state park near you today, visit AZStateParks.com
Transformation & Achievement

Fiscal year 19 was a year of transformation for Arizona State Parks and Trails. A change in leadership, an alignment of mission-critical strategies, and a dedication to conserving and protecting Arizona’s natural resources were the highlights of the year.

In February 2019, Bob Broscheid was appointed as executive director of Arizona State Parks and Trails by Governor Doug Ducey. Director Broscheid came from Colorado Parks and Wildlife, where he was director and oversaw 41 state parks and 307 wildlife areas. His previous experience includes 18 years with the Arizona Game and Fish Department, making him a great choice to lead Arizona State Parks and Trails. In May, Deputy Director Tim Franquist joined the team, coming to us from Arizona Department of Environmental Quality. Assistant Director of Operations and Development Darla Cook joined in November 2018.

New Camping Cabins

New camping cabins opened in August at Patagonia Lake and Lost Dutchman state parks, offering another option for campers in the southern region. Both sites were fully booked immediately for Labor Day weekend, and have continued to attract new visitors. The cabins have spectacular views of the parks’ main features, the water or the Superstition Mountains.

At the 2018 annual Arizona Parks and Recreation Association conference, five Arizona State Parks & Trails nominees received awards:

- Dale Larsen - Citation of Merit
- John Sefton - Outstanding Professional
- Roger Naylor - Media
- Cavco Industries, Inc. - Natural Resources
As part of a project to save water in the Verde River, we worked with the Nature Conservancy to replace and upgrade the recirculation pump at Dead Horse Ranch State Park, which will protect the lagoons during high-flow events and provide additional oxygen to fish during low-flow.

At the National Recreation and Park Association annual conference, Arizona State Parks and Trails became one of the first state park systems in the nation to receive accreditation by the Commission for the Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA) for best practices in operations and service.
ARIZONA STATE PARKS & TRAILS

RED ROCK STATE PARK

SLIDE ROCK STATE PARK

DEAD HORSE RANCH STATE PARK

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Kartchner Caverns State Park®
Cave health is vital to protecting and conserving Kartchner Caverns State Park, and the original lighting through the caves was raising the temperature, threatening moisture levels and ecosystems. We upgraded all lighting to LED, resulting in the Big Room being 1°F cooler than the same time last year.

Sign Language Saturday
Grant request: $5,150
Funded a new program offering monthly sign-language interpreted tours in the caves at the park, along with advanced audio equipment.

Foster Family Fun Pass
In December 2018, Arizona State Parks and Trails partnered with the Arizona Department of Child Safety to offer day-use passes to foster families for the holidays. Based on the success of that effort, Arizona State Parks and Trails then created a special annual pass just for foster families. Ten thousand “Family Fun” passes were printed to distribute to foster families throughout the state, giving them access to more than 30 parks any day of the week. The feedback was incredible.

Cultural and Tribal Relations Training
As part of an ongoing effort to maintain and promote tribal relationships throughout the state, all Parks staff underwent cultural and tribal relations training, which provided guidance and guidelines for tribal consultation and partnership.

“The State Park pass for foster families is SO appreciated. We love taking our kids to hike, play in nature, and bond. What a gift! THANK YOU!”

“Please pass along our thanks to all involved for the state park passes. We are so happy to have it and believe in the power on nature as part of the healing journey and the family fun that connects us.”

“As a single foster mommy of four children soon to be adopted, we thank you from the bottom of our heart for such an amazing gift to our family. We love the outdoors and we’re very excited to explore our beautiful state with your thoughtful gift.”
Google Trekker

During the cooler spring months, interns from the Grants & Trails section spent six weeks hiking more than 200 miles of trails wearing the Google R7 Trekker Camera. This 360-camera pack allowed the team to capture in detail the trails in and connecting to state parks across Arizona. The data is now live on Google Earth and Google Maps, enabling visitors to see trail conditions and plan the perfect hiking adventure. Use of the camera was free after parks submitted a request and detailed information about which trails would be documented.

La Paz County - Law Enforcement Off-Highway Vehicle Patrol

Grant request: $26,980

Allows La Paz County Sheriff’s Department to dedicate 450 hours of patrol to OHV trails during the influx of off-road enthusiasts.

During the 2019 legislative session, Senate Bill 1241, introduced by Senator Kate Brophy McGee, was signed by Governor Ducey. SB1241 re-establishes the Arizona State Parks Heritage Fund, but without dedicated funding until the time when Arizona Lottery encumbrances are repaid and removed. The fund was originally set up by a voter initiative that passed overwhelmingly in 1990. It got up to $20 million annually and split that money between the parks fund and the Game and Fish Heritage Fund, which still gets $10 million a year from lottery money.
City of Show Low – Meadow Trail at the Bluffs

Grant request: $77,230
Creation of an ADA-accessible pedestrian trail along Show Low Creek, along with two fishing platforms, benches, and signage along the trail.

Yuma Crossing Natural Heritage Area – Yuma East Wetlands Sunset View Wildlife Area Trail Development

Grant request: $77,230
Creation of the first phase of a new wildlife area ADA-accessible trail with benches, signage, and an interpretive map.
**Cattail Cove State Park** is moving forward in the redevelopment of the upper portion of the park. Construction work has started on the infrastructure needed for new RV campsites. Contractors have nearly completed the installation of the underground utilities that will service Cattail Coves’ upper wing. Upon completion, the 61 new RV sites will have full service hookups along with an unobstructed view of Lake Havasu. A revised Master Plan will be put out for public comment, followed by a new Request for Proposal (RFP) for a new concessionaire at Cattail Cove. This portion of Cattail Cove is tentatively slated for completion in 2021/2022.

**Arizona State Parks & Trails**

**Website Update**

In January 2017, the website was updated making it mobile-friendly and expanding functionality. Since then, the marketing department has worked to improve the Search Engine Optimization (SEO) of the web pages, making them easier and more prominent to find when searching. The first year of the new site saw a dramatic increase in traffic, with sustained growth of nearly 10% moving through FY19.
Arizona State Parks & Trails

Visitation Update

In FY18, 3,189,998 people visited state parks. In FY19, that number grew to 3,219,492, an increase of 24,494 visitors. If you lined up all of last years visitors end-to-end, they would stretch from Phoenix, AZ to Reno, NV, more than 600 miles away.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Park</th>
<th>Visitors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>McFarland</td>
<td>6,823</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tubac Presidio</td>
<td>7,922</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fort Verde</td>
<td>10,719</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oracle</td>
<td>14,216</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colorado River</td>
<td>18,136</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Riordan Mansion</td>
<td>23,256</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homolovi</td>
<td>26,836</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Granite Mtn Hotshots</td>
<td>30,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lyman Lake</td>
<td>31,058</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>River Island</td>
<td>32,271</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tombstone Courthouse</td>
<td>46,793</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jerome</td>
<td>51,701</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alamo Lake</td>
<td>59,825</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yuma Territorial Prison</td>
<td>65,040</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roper Lake</td>
<td>75,741</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red Rock</td>
<td>83,451</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buckskin Mountain</td>
<td>87,549</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boyce Thompson Arboretum</td>
<td>92,925</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tonto Natural Bridge</td>
<td>99,856</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In FY19, more than 73% of all visitors or 2.3 million people visited these top 10 parks.

Due to a “wild” wildflower season in FY19, Picacho Peak saw more than 42,600 visitors in March and April 2019.
More than 900,000 people stayed in a tent, RV or cabin at our 15 camping parks in FY19. Visitors are shown on the graphs below from least to most, by park. Have you stayed in a state park campsite yet? Make your plans at AZStateParks.com/Reserve.
Roper Lake State Park became the center of the birding universe when the first ringed kingfisher ever seen in Arizona was found and photographed by park personnel.

City of Buckeye – Multi-Use Path Along Canal

Grant request: $80,000
Design and construction of a concrete path on the north bank of the Buckeye Irrigation District Canal, along with landscaping, lighting and three interpretive panels. An additional $343,400 in LWCF funding was also provided.

Pinal County Open Space and Trails – Lost Goldmine Trail Maintenance

Grant request: $24,320
Trail maintenance for 11 miles for user safety and sustainability.

Verde Valley Cyclist Coalition – Red Rock Patrol Training

Grant request: $2,700
Training to improve riding skills of the Red Rock Bike Patrol volunteers during weekend clinics led by certified coaches.
### ASPT State Parks Revenue Fund (SPRF) FY19/FY18 Revenue Comparison by Type (Gross)

ASPT receives no general fund dollars. Camping, day-use visitors and cave tours create **80% of SPRF revenue.**

### SPRF FY 2019 / FY 2018 Revenue Fund (Gross)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fiscal Year</th>
<th>Fiscal Year</th>
<th>VAR</th>
<th>Year Over Year Growth</th>
<th>VAR</th>
<th>CUMULATIVE GROWTH FROM FY13</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FY2019</td>
<td>$21,343,751</td>
<td>682,529</td>
<td>3.30%</td>
<td></td>
<td>78.39%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY2018</td>
<td>$20,661,222</td>
<td>2,440,987</td>
<td>13.40%</td>
<td>8,696,232</td>
<td>72.68%</td>
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<tr>
<td>FY2017</td>
<td>$18,220,235</td>
<td>1,795,389</td>
<td>10.93%</td>
<td>6,255,245</td>
<td>52.28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY2016</td>
<td>$16,424,846</td>
<td>2,007,199</td>
<td>13.92%</td>
<td>4,459,856</td>
<td>37.27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY2015</td>
<td>$14,417,647</td>
<td>1,204,196</td>
<td>9.11%</td>
<td>2,452,657</td>
<td>20.50%</td>
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<tr>
<td>FY2014</td>
<td>$13,213,451</td>
<td>1,248,461</td>
<td>10.43%</td>
<td>1,248,461</td>
<td>20.50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY2013</td>
<td>$11,964,990</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
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</table>
In FY19, these top 10 parks accounted for 76% of our revenue.

Kartchner Caverns Revenue
FY19 - $3,526,323
FY18 - $3,684,472

Overall revenue this year was down due to tour closures to accommodate the lighting upgrade project.

FY 2019 Capital Spending
$5,136,869

- LAND IMPROVEMENTS: 3%
- BUILDING IMPROVEMENTS: 27%
- ROADS/OTHER: 27%
- CONSTRUCTION IN PROGRESS: 10%
- CAPITAL PURCHASE: 3%
Arizona State Parks & Trails

Updates

Picacho Peak State Park
The park reported record attendance levels in March due to a spectacular wildflower bloom, the best in 15 years. Earlier in the year, a video of caterpillars from the park went viral with more than 73,400 views and 6,000 reactions. Plus, 12 News in Phoenix and the ABC affiliate in Las Vegas picked up the story.

Slide Rock State Park
ADA Trail
Grant request: $40,000
Upgrades to the Clifftop Trail to be ADA-compliant, enabling more visitors with disabilities to visit and hike at the park.
AZ State Land Department – Off-Highway Vehicle Coordinator and Trailhead Improvements

Grant request: $93,500
Salary and benefits for an OHV Coordinator with State Lands, a vehicle lease for the coordinator, and repairs and maintenance for the Desert Wells riding area parking lot.

Town of Springerville Park

Grant request: $184,000
Creation of a splash pad and concrete ADA walkway at Town Hall Park, a four-acre playground and community garden.