Essential for Visitors

ARIZONA STATE PARKS & TRAILS

FY20 ANNUAL REPORT SIXTY-THREE YEARS OF Recreation

AZSTATEPARKS.COM
Looking back, the second half of Fiscal Year 2020 will be what we remember most. FY20 started off well - we were seeing increased numbers of visitors in our parks, our internal programs were strong, and we were continuing to move forward with a goal of becoming the number one recreation agency in the state.

Then, COVID-19 hit. The effects could have been devastating to our agency. We could have shut down and turned away visitors as we waited out what we initially thought would be a short-term closure. Instead, we found ways to keep the parks open while focusing on the health and safety of our park staff and our visitors. We immediately initiated new procedures for cleaning in the parks and implemented capacity restrictions to encourage social distancing. All our recreation parks remained open and available for visitors, which became even more important as parks in the surrounding areas shut down, taking away options for people on their way or already camping.

Campgrounds and cabins remained open and park staff continued to provide exemplary customer service to the crowds of people who were exploring, many for the first time. Call center and additional staff stepped up to process cancelations from out of state (or country) visitors with no cancellation fee, as well as answer questions and deliver information. Throughout the year, Arizona State Parks and Trails proved why it is an essential operation to the people visiting and living in Arizona.

We are continuing to adapt to changes and show flexibility, knowing that the open spaces and recreation opportunities the parks offer are critical to mental and physical health. The dedication of our park staff remains the brightest spot in the year, as well as our biggest success.

I invite you to take a road trip to explore parks you haven’t seen yet and get a breath of fresh air. There’s nothing like a hike or a paddle around the lake to clear your head and ease the stress.

Bob Broscheid
Executive Director
Arizona State Parks & Trails
Your Parks - Click on a park icon to learn more

To create your next experience with family and friends in a state park near you today, visit AZStateParks.com
**FY20 Highlights**

**Kartchner Caverns State Park®
20th Anniversary**

In November, Kartchner Caverns State Park celebrated its 20th anniversary as a state park with an event on site. Speakers included members of the Kartchner family, Senator David Gowan, retired crew members who helped build the trail system through the caves, Arizona State Parks and Trails former executive director, and current park leadership. Among the attendees were Representatives Regina Cobb, Joanne Osborne, and Diego Rodriguez; members of the Arizona State Parks Board of Directors; city of Benson leaders; and former and current staff of the park. Media and VIPs were offered special tours of the caves prior to the celebration.

**New Camping Cabins**

New camping cabins opened in November at Lake Havasu State Park, increasing camping capacity at the state’s most popular park. The 13 cabins are located right on the shore of Lake Havasu, landscaped with a beautiful white sand beach. The new loop also includes RV sites adjacent to the cabins, further adding to camping availability. A partnership with the city of Lake Havasu over Valentine’s Day weekend helped launch the cabins with a promotion that resulted in more than 5,300 entries.

**Essential for Visitors**

The first half of fiscal year 20 included increased visitation and revenue, unique partnerships, and outreach to more visitors. The year ended on a difficult note, with unprecedented challenges and a pandemic that wreaked havoc on ordinary life. Arizona State Parks and Trails remained open for business, available for outdoor recreation that so many visitors desperately needed, and providing a mental respite from “the new normal.”
On March 23, 2020, Governor Doug Ducey issued Executive Order 2020-12, naming parks as an essential operation in the state of Arizona. Prior to the order, Arizona State Parks and Trails was already hard at work evaluating Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Arizona Department of Health guidelines and finding ways to keep visitors safe in the parks. However, even with COVID-19 restrictions and limited capacity at parks, May 2020 still brought record-breaking numbers of visitors out to recreate.

In late 2019, the Marketing department expanded its efforts to find new visitors and encourage repeat visitation to the parks. Campaigns were launched with Arizona’s Family TV (channels 3 and 5 in the Phoenix-metro area), KJZZ, KOLD TV in Tucson, Cactus League Spring Training, ABC 15 social media and video, and in-flight videos on Alaskan and United Airlines, targeting spring training visitors. Additionally, Arizona State Parks and Trails partnered with the Arizona Office of Tourism to launch a Canadian campaign on Expedia, aimed at attracting international visitors to the state parks. This campaign was suspended due to COVID-19, but will be relaunched at a later date.
With more than 30 parks operating across the state, it was vital to continue to provide outdoor recreation opportunities to residents who had very few options. As federal and regional parks closed, visitors flocked to Arizona’s state parks, some of the remaining open spaces. Although historic parks, gift shops, and cave tours at Kartchner Caverns closed, trails, campgrounds and cabins remained open and park staff continued to provide exemplary customer service to the crowds of people who were exploring, many for the first time. Call center and additional staff stepped up to process cancellations from out of state (or country) visitors with no cancellation fee, as well as answering questions and delivering information. The staff at Arizona Parks and Trails, especially the rangers and staff at the parks, truly exemplified amazing customer service by putting themselves at the frontline to continue to provide beautiful outdoor spaces and recreation opportunities for people during the crisis.
FY20 Highlights

State Historic Preservation Office (S.H.P.O.)

In the midst of COVID restrictions, the Arizona State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) was able to transform its annual statewide historic preservation conference to an online virtual format by partnering with the Arizona Preservation Foundation (APF). The statewide preservation conference, now in its 17th year, brings archaeologists, historians, planners and community leaders from local, state, federal and tribal governments and organizations to discuss current issues affecting preservation in Arizona. Typical attendance ranges from 300-350 individuals from across the state. The team found technology and options for virtual engagement and created new programming designed to address current events and appeal to the broadest of audiences. The Preservation in Place virtual conference event, held on June 18, 2020, drew attendance of almost 700 people worldwide.

Arizona State Parks Board

In May, Governor Doug Ducey appointed a new member to the Arizona State Parks Board of Directors. Jeff Buchanan is passionate about the conservation of natural resources and is a member of various conservation organizations ranging from the Arizona Elk Society to the National Wildlife Federation. He served 37 years in the US Army and moved to Parks, Arizona on retirement.

New Developments on the “West Coast”

At Cattail Cove State Park, a project to add 61 RV sites with full hook-ups started and proceeded through the year. Underground infrastructure was laid, sites were developed, and landscaping completed on the project. The views over the Colorado River are spectacular, and once wastewater and restroom facilities are added, the new sites will bring even more capacity to the park. 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.
Bighorn Fire

During an especially dangerous fire season, Catalina State Park became the home base and battleground for the Bighorn Fire. The fire was started by a lightning strike on June 5, and burned until July 23, 2020. The incident command was based in Catalina State Park, with fire crews setting up a fire break within park boundaries. Dry, windy conditions pushed the fire closer to communities and forced evacuations. The park suffered no structural damage, although trails and vegetation will bear the burn scar for months to come. The loss of vegetation also increased the likelihood of flooding, with caused several temporary closures of the park in months to come during rainy season. Dark, ash-coated water flowed down from the mountains through the park.

Arizona Office of Tourism

Also in partnership with the Arizona Office of Tourism, 21 state parks came Official Arizona Visitor Information Centers (AVIC) at the end of the fiscal year. This will make travel information easily accessible to Arizona visitors and travelers. As officially designated AVICs, the parks will be promoted on VisitArizona.com, in the state’s official travel guide and travel map, and the Arizona Office of Tourism Visit Arizona app. Four of the state’s parks operated by partners were already designed AVICs – Colorado River, McFarland, Tubac Presidio, and Yuma Territorial Prison state historic parks.

Arizona 2020 Trails Plan

After more than a year of gathering data and public comments about the thousands of miles of motorized and non-motorized trails in the state, Arizona State Parks and Trails released the final 2020 Trails Plan. More than 9,000 survey responses were collected, guiding this plan’s development with input about motorized or non-motorized trails, how often and how they are used, trails preferences and how land managers could improve trail experiences through their time, money and efforts. The Trails Plan provides information about trail users, their preferences, opinions and important issues facing recreational trails and off-highway vehicle routes in Arizona. The plan also offers a list of recommendations and priority actions that both trail users and land managers can implement.
NPS, Glen Canyon National Recreation Area - Horseshoe Bend Trail

Grant request: $81,000

Glen Canyon National Recreation Area, in partnership with The City of Page, Arizona, are currently developing the Horseshoe Bend area into a world class environmental tourist destination. Over the last seven years due mostly to social media, visitation has increased from an average of 25 - 50 people per day to over 4,000 people per day. This project constructed a fully compliant Americans with Disability Act trail, which eliminated the informal trail that travels through deep sand and over steep hills.

Pinal County - Peralta Regional Park - LWCF

Grant request: $2,051,203

Funds will be used to develop a new regional park (Pinal County’s first). The park plan includes a dynamic range of recreational opportunities for picnickers, non-motorized trail users, rock climbers, night sky users and tent campers.

Building Memories...
FY20 Highlights

Camp Verde Sports Complex - LWCF
Grant request: $2,500,000

The Town of Camp Verde is constructing a sports complex on 140 acres. We are interested in applying for an LWCF to help pay for the construction of various amenities and infrastructure. This would include several lighted fields to be used for softball, baseball, and soccer. There would build tennis and pickleball courts that would also be lighted. The plan includes covered picnic areas, restrooms, concessions, accessible pathways, parking lot signage, and amenities related to the facility.

Arizona State Parks & Trails
Annual Pass Update

GROWTH CONTINUES
Since FY18, Arizona State Parks and Trails has managed a successful partnership with the Arizona Department of Transportation and Arizona Highways magazine to provide a one year magazine subscription with each annual pass purchase. To date, we have added more than 31,000 new subscribers who enjoy Arizona from the colorful pages of AZ Highways magazine. Sales continued to climb as more people recognized the benefit of outdoor recreation during the pandemic. Annual passes can be purchased online or at select state park locations. (Standard $75, Premium $200)
In FY20, more than **79% of all visitors** or **2.3 million people** visited our **top 10 parks**.

*Due to Covid 19, limited closures and restrictions were imposed at several parks to increase visitor safety and to maintain CDC guidelines.*

In FY20 2,972,187 people visited state parks, a 7.77% decrease or 247,305 fewer visitors than in FY19.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Park Name</th>
<th>Visitors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>Tonto Natural Bridge</em></td>
<td>87,690</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Roper Lake</em></td>
<td>83,765</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Buckskin Mountain</em></td>
<td>79,896</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Red Rock</em></td>
<td>70,190</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Alamo Lake</em></td>
<td>66,744</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Lyman Lake</em></td>
<td>62,492</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Yuma Territorial Prison</em></td>
<td>48,415</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Tombstone Courthouse</em></td>
<td>36,200</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Jerome</em></td>
<td>34,492</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>River Island</em></td>
<td>33,560</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Granite Mnt. Hotshots</em></td>
<td>25,025</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Homolovi</em></td>
<td>22,168</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Riordan Mansion</em></td>
<td>14,360</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Oracle</em></td>
<td>13,629</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Colorado River</em></td>
<td>10,339</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Fort Verde</em></td>
<td>7,880</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Tubac Presidio</em></td>
<td>5,883</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Mcfarland</em></td>
<td>4,673</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Due to Covid 19, limited closures and restrictions were imposed at several parks to increase visitor safety and to maintain CDC guidelines.*
Arizona State Parks & Trails
Camping Update

More than 895,850 people stayed in a tent, RV or cabin at our 15 camping parks in FY20. 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.

WHO STAYED WHERE?

TENT CAMPERS
10,138
UP 20%

RV ENTHUSIASTS
259,967
(Estimate based on survey)

CABIN LOVERS
10,483
UP 15%

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UP 15%
BLM, Grand Canyon Parashant - OHV Facility Improvements

Grant request: $102,195

Funds will be used to provide and install kiosk panels displaying popular OHV routes, destinations, and responsible use guidance. Recreational trail signs and ADA accessible signs will be produced to go at trailhead facilities. Nine trailhead facilities will be brought up to ADA standards. Three single self-composting toilets will be installed at three trailheads. Funds will also provide maps and trail info. Signs will be installed to promote cultural resource protection. Law enforcement from the BLM and NPS will provide additional patrols to archaeology and historical sites. Website updates and Tread Lightly messaging will be delivered to the public through various media outlets.

Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest - Historic Ventures on the Apache

Grant request: $55,953

Funds will be used to improve trail access to historical areas of interest located within Baldy Wilderness and the Blue Range Primitive area. Work will be done to open these trails, to mitigate damage, to improve unsafe conditions and to delineate where tread is obscured. The project will also promote understanding of these historical areas, and their preservation with interpretive signs offering historical information and Leave No Trace practices.

Natural Restorations Restoration Project

Grant request: $275,330

With grant funds we will remove trash & graffiti from OHV areas outlined in our proposal. In 12 months our Dedicated Restoration Team will complete 20 restoration projects & we will host five volunteer events to provide close to home opportunities for youth, the OHV community, non-OHV community members, and state parks employees.
Arizona State Parks & Trails

Revenue Update

FY 2020 Revenue by Fund
$38,834,180

- State Park Revenue Fund
- Partnership Funds
- Other
- Donation Funds

FY 2020 Expenditures by Fund
$28,433,100

- State Park Revenue Fund
- Partnership Funds
- Other
- Off-Highway Vehicle Fund

FY 2020 SPRF Revenue by Type
$21,221,748

- Camping
- Day Use
- Cave Tours
- Concessions
- Reservation Surcharge
- Standard Pass
- Premium Pass

State Park Revenue Fund (SPRF)
Arizona State Parks & Trails

Expenditure Update

State Park Revenue Fund (SPRF), State Lake Improvement Fund (SLIF) Overview, and Off-Highway Vehicles (OHV) Expenditures

FY 2020 SPRF Expenditures
$15,763,400

FY 2020 SLIF Expenditures
$6,261,100

FY 2020 OHV Expenditures
$562,700

ARIZONA OFF-HIGHWAY AMBASSADORS SHOW ME RIDE - FOUR PEAKS
Arizona State Parks & Trails
Revenue Update

SPRF FY 2020 / FY 2019 Revenue Comparison by Type

ASPT receives no general fund dollars.

Camping, day-use visitors and cave tours generate 80% of SPRF revenue.

*Due to COVID-19 guidelines, tours in the cave were closed and then significantly reduced at the end of FY20.

ASPT State Parks Revenue Fund

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fiscal Year</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Year Over Year Growth</th>
<th>Cumulative Growth from FY15</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FY2020</td>
<td>$21,221,748</td>
<td>-0.6%</td>
<td>47.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY2019</td>
<td>$20,343,751</td>
<td>3.3%</td>
<td>48.0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>FY2018</td>
<td>$20,661,222</td>
<td>13.4%</td>
<td>43.3%</td>
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<tr>
<td>FY2017</td>
<td>$18,220,235</td>
<td>10.9%</td>
<td>26.4%</td>
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<tr>
<td>FY2016</td>
<td>$16,424,846</td>
<td>13.9%</td>
<td>13.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY2015</td>
<td>$14,417,647</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

NOTE: Revenue numbers do not include bank fee reductions
**Arizona State Parks & Trails**

**Revenue Update**

**Kartchner Caverns Revenue**

FY20 - $2,323,307  
FY19 - $3,516,323

*Due to COVID-19 guidelines, cave tours and visitor capacity was significantly reduced at the end of FY20.*

**FY 2020 Capital Spending**

$5,364,900

- 47% LAND IMPROVEMENTS
- 29% BUILDING IMPROVEMENTS
- 17% ROADS/OTHER
- 6% CONSTRUCTION IN PROGRESS
- 1% CAPITAL PURCHASE

**SPRF FY 2020 / FY 2019 Revenue Comparison by Type**
Happy Families Make Happy Parks!