

"PARKS VISION 2030"

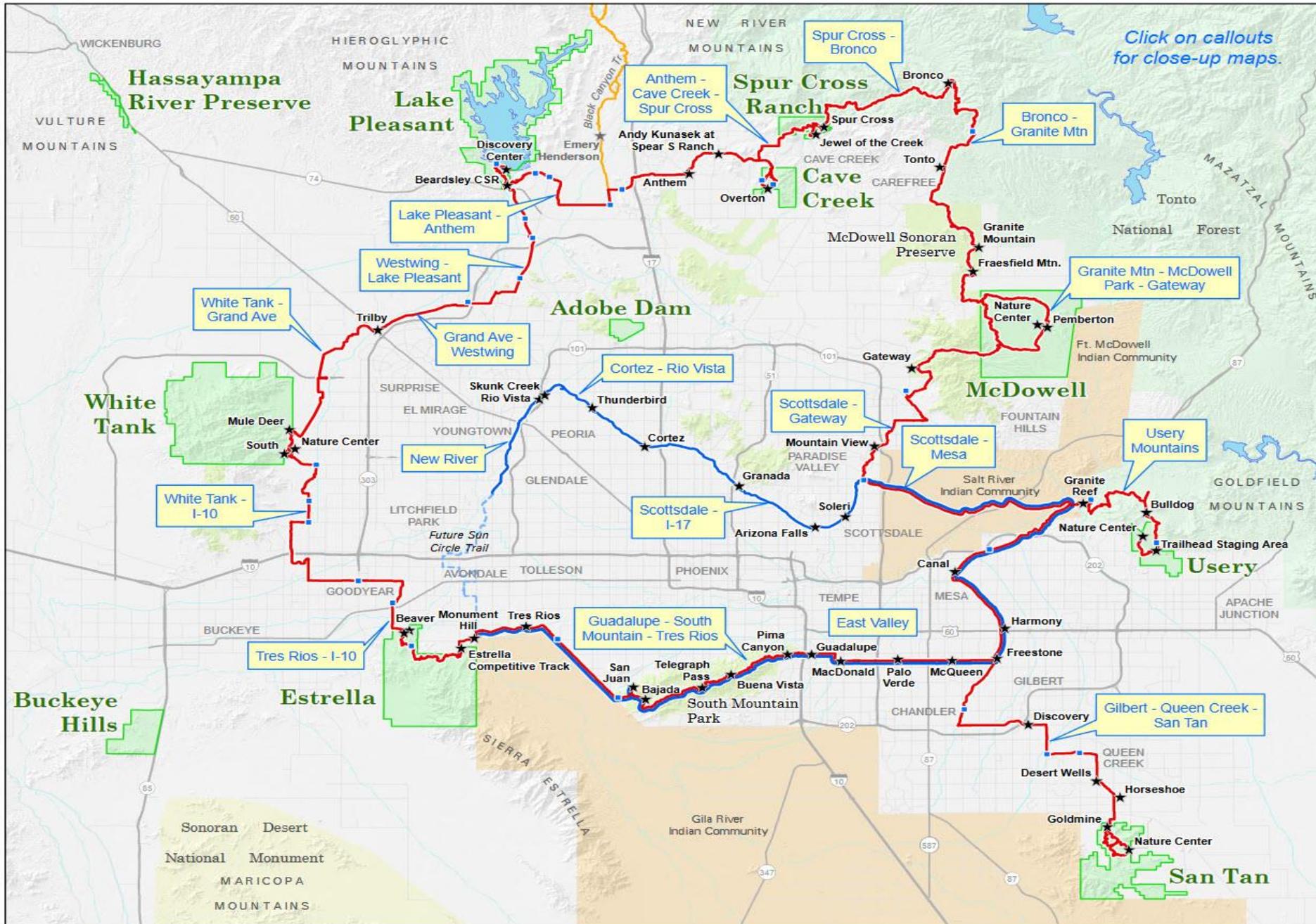
PARKS, OPEN SPACE, AND TRAILS SYSTEM PLAN

Continuing the Legacy



Maricopa County
Parks and Recreation Department
www.maricopacountyparks.net

Maricopa Trail and Sun Circle Trail



Click on callouts for close-up maps.

Regional Trail System

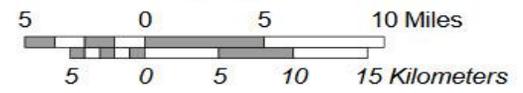
- Maricopa Trail
- Sun Circle Trail
- Trailhead
- Access Point

Note: The southern part of the Sun Circle Trail overlaps with the Maricopa Trail.

- Regional Park/Preserve
- Mountain Preserve

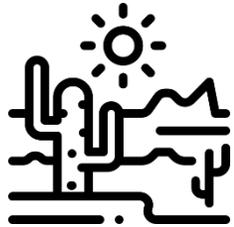


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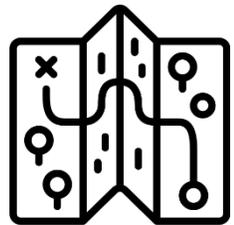
IMPORTANCE OF A PARK SYSTEM MASTER PLAN



Planning That Protects
and Conserves High
Quality Natural Desert
Places



Planning That Promotes
Transparency, Engagement
and Partnerships



Planning That
Connects People and
Nature Through
Outdoor Recreation
Opportunities

GREAT PARK SYSTEMS...

- Provide **value** to communities by celebrating the natural and cultural heritage of the area
- Provide **quality recreational benefits and opportunities**
- Provides **economic development opportunities** by promoting tourism to the area
- Are **guided by a compelling vision** that supports the mission, guides management strategies, and aligns with the vision and direction of the region

2009 PARK SYSTEM MASTER PLAN



- **Assessed** the park system, system-wide key issues, and recommendations
- **Analyzed** community needs, demographics, growth patterns, and drive-time analysis
- **Reviewed** park programs, operations, maintenance, and administration/finances
- **Implementation** strategies were developed

2009 STRATEGIC SYSTEM MASTER PLAN – CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE PROJECTS



Maricopa Trail



Willow Campground



Government Dock



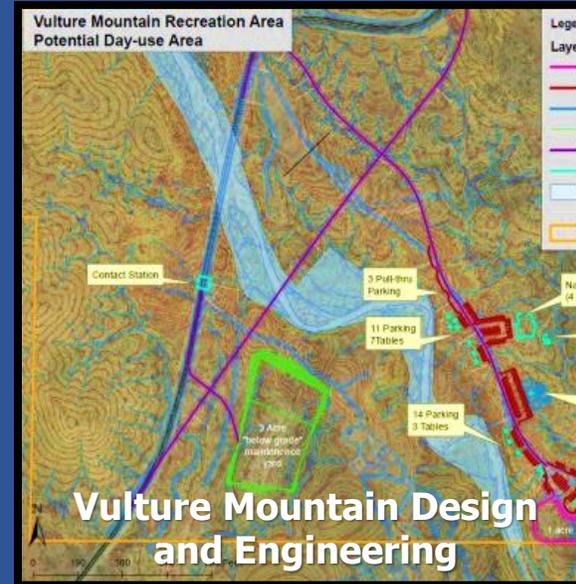
Buckeye Hills Electrical



Restroom renovations



Estrella Renovations

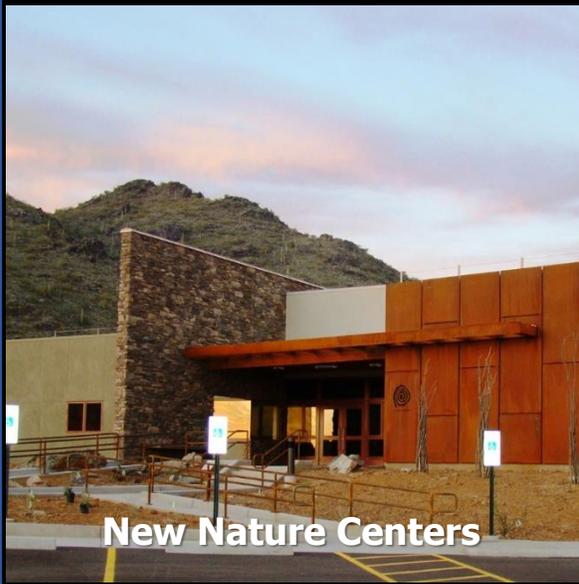


Vulture Mountain Design and Engineering



Hassayampa Preserve Master Plan Improvements

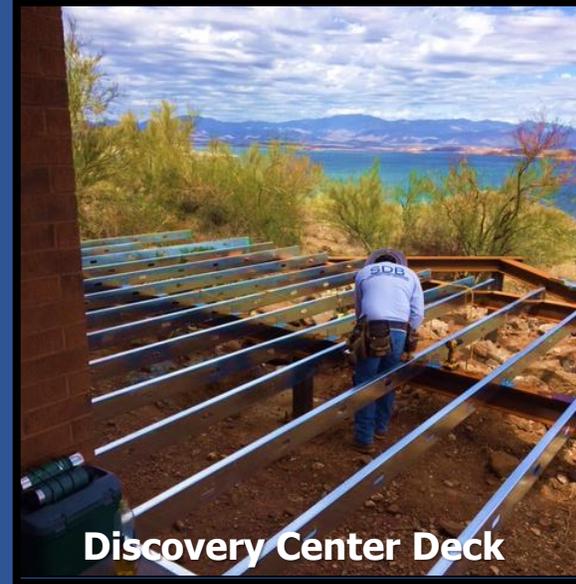
2009 STRATEGIC SYSTEM MASTER PLAN – CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE PROJECTS



New Nature Centers



Waterfall Trail Upgrades



Discovery Center Deck



Discovery Center



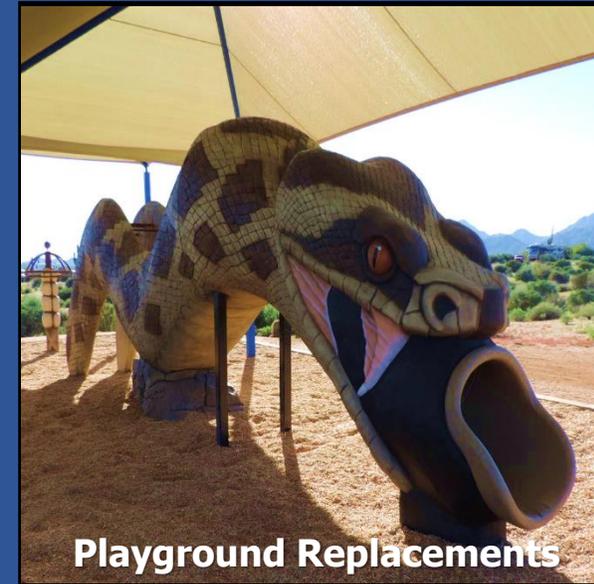
Lake Pleasant Trails



Electrical Upgrades

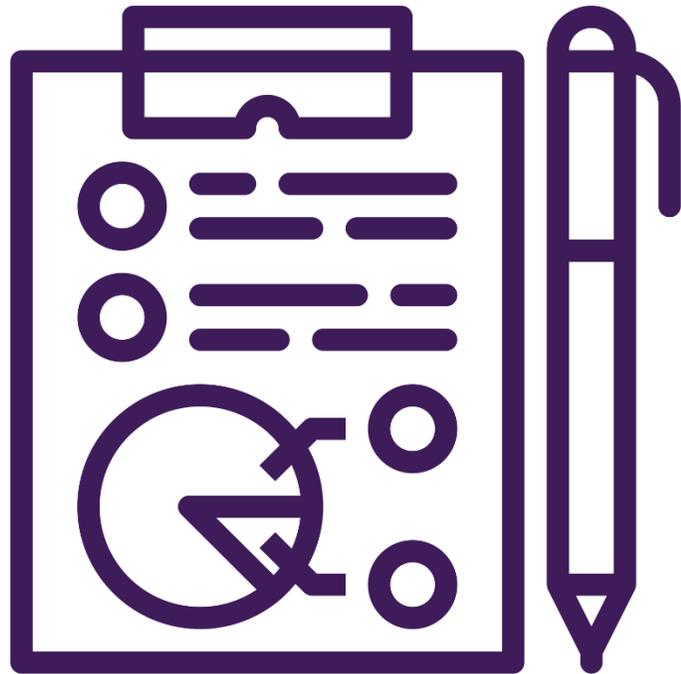


Agua Fria Restoration



Playground Replacements

WHAT WILL THE PARKS VISION 2030 ACCOMPLISH



- Provides a **blueprint** to strategically position the department as the recognized leader in delivering regional park, open space and trail opportunities, and experiences
- Creates a **plan** that will set forth the appropriate park system structure and policies
- **Affirms** that the county's regional park system will continue to remain one of the finest park systems in the United States amidst record setting growth
- **Aligns** with other county and regional planning efforts

MARICOPA COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN VISION 2030



“While growth will challenge a high quality of life, this comprehensive plan - known as **Vision 2030** – helps meet this challenge by protecting public health and safety, promoting stable economic growth, maintaining a healthy environment, providing adequate community services and ensuring that tax money is spent efficiently.”

Source: Maricopa County Comprehensive Plan – Vision 2030

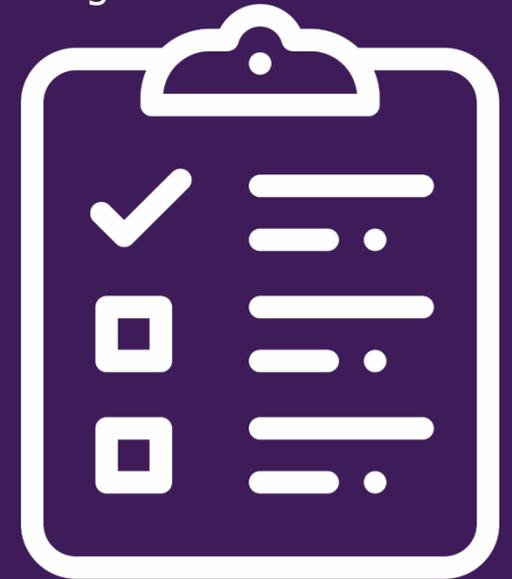
RELEVANT PLAN ELEMENTS

OPEN SPACE OVERVIEW

- Two important factors that determine the appeal of an area are the **amount** and **quality** of open spaces for people to enjoy
- State law requires that the county **identify** existing open spaces, **forecast** future open space needs, identify strategies to **preserve** and **acquire** open space as necessary, and **integrate** open space on a regional basis
- Vision 2030 **supports** the county's Parks and Recreation Strategic System Master Plan, Regional Trail System Plan, and considers open space and connectivity a fundamental part of future development

OPEN SPACE GOALS

- Provide **regional leadership** to promote environmental quality, including the preservation of open, natural park and recreation lands
- **Protect** and **expand** the regional park system proportionately with population growth
- **Build** the Maricopa Trail and the Maricopa County Regional Trail System
- **Work** with municipalities to connect the trail system to their park and preserve systems



RELEVANT PLAN ELEMENTS

LAND USE OVERVIEW

Sensible, balanced, and economically efficient land use patterns are important for Maricopa County to have successful long-term growth and a high quality of life

LAND GOALS

- Achieve balanced and efficient development patterns
- Provide regional leadership on land use issues
- Protect public health, safety, and well-being
- Exercise sound financial management through land use decisions that build the county's fiscal strength

ENVIRONMENTAL OVERVIEW

- Maricopa County's unique and scenic desert setting is one of the reasons why so many people choose to live here, and why protecting it is such a high priority

ENVIRONMENTAL GOAL

- Provide regional leadership to promote all aspects of regional environmental quality



RELEVANT PLAN ELEMENTS

TRANSPORTATION

A functional and high quality transportation system is necessary for the efficient movement of people and products and essential for an economically competitive region.



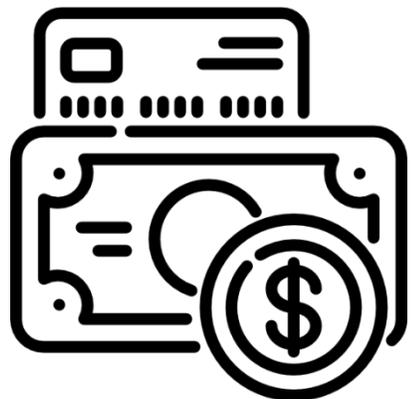
TRANSPORTATION POLICIES

- **Maricopa County supports alternative transportation in the design of urban development including the Maricopa Trail and related trail connections, the Maricopa County Bicycle Transportation System Plan, Park-and-ride/public transit facilities, and other appropriate multimodal practices.**
- **Maricopa County planning that promotes identified scenic corridors, wildlife connectivity and linkages.**

RELEVANT PLAN ELEMENTS

ECONOMIC GROWTH OVERVIEW

The global economy means business, industry, and the workforce are more mobile than ever and it is important to recognize that other places in the U.S. and around the world have advantages and characteristics that rival those of Maricopa County



ECONOMIC GROWTH GOAL

- **Contribute** to an effective regional economy
- Have a **diverse** and **balanced** economy to promote long-term economic stability and economic resiliency
- **Attract** a variety of industries from basic sector clusters and the workers needed to compete in the **New Economy**
 - In the New Economy, **Quality of Place** matters when attracting and retaining employers and employees. This includes:
 - Condition of the natural and built environment
 - Variety of open space, recreation, trails, and leisure opportunities
 - A sense of place, acceptance, and belonging

PARKS VISITOR STUDY

PREPARED BY:

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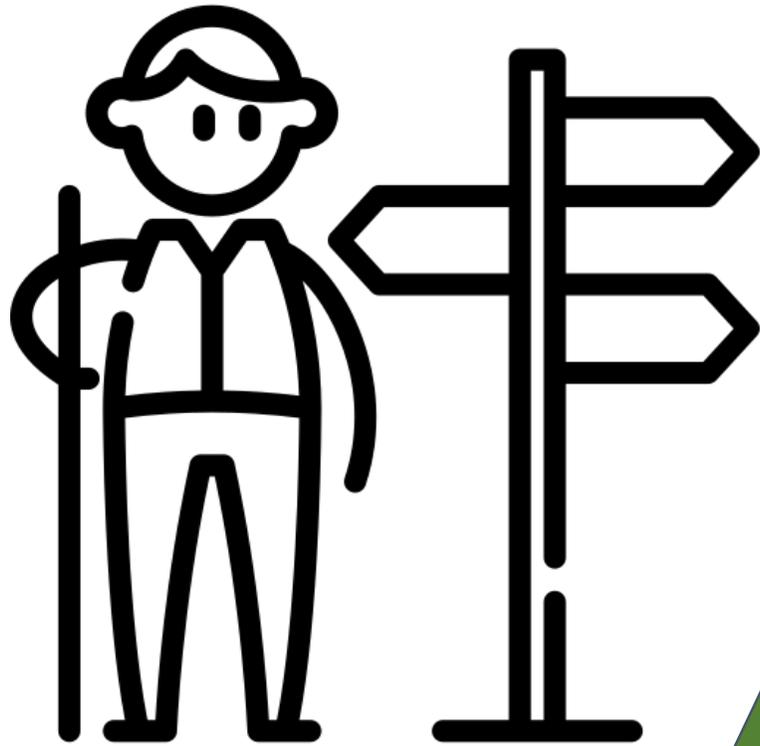


LEVEL OF SATISFACTION WITH RECENT VISIT OVERALL (ONSITE)

	2006	2008	2013	2019
Overall	4.51	4.47	4.56	4.80
Cave Creek	4.63	4.65	4.67	4.86
Estrella	4.49	4.12	4.34	4.75
Lake Pleasant	4.31	4.25	4.46	4.56
McDowell	4.63	4.62	4.65	4.89
San Tan	4.46	4.43	4.64	4.87
Spur Cross	4.45	4.63	4.72	4.79
Usery	4.55	4.55	4.60	4.89
White Tank	4.57	4.51	4.47	4.80

1 = Not at all satisfied, 5 = Extremely satisfied

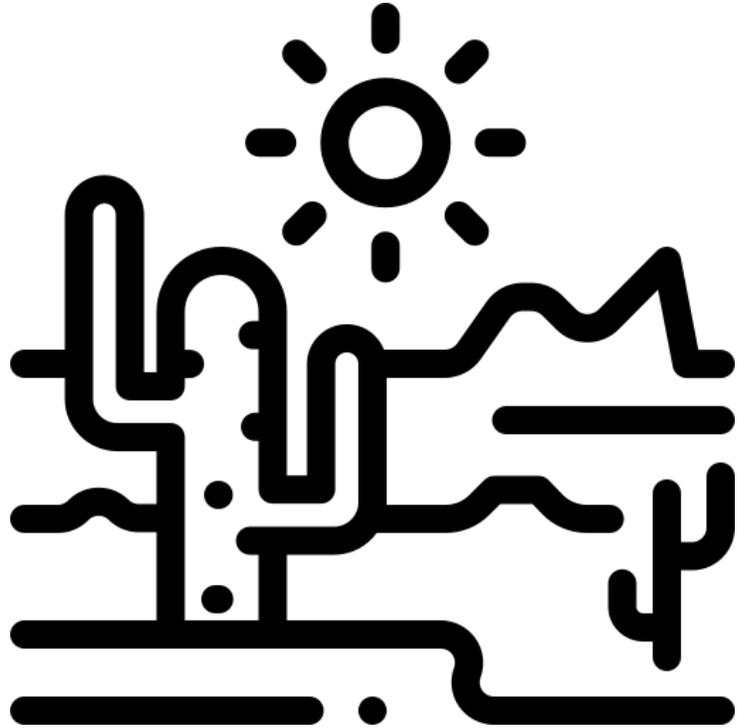
IMPORTANCE AND PERFORMANCE OF FACILITIES



FACILITIES

- Top five for importance:
 - trails
 - trail signs
 - restrooms
 - parking availability
 - directional signs
- Top five for performance:
 - boat ramps
 - nature/visitor center
 - parking availability
 - primary trails
 - park campsites

REASONS FOR VISITING



TOP FIVE REASONS FOR 2019

- Observe the scenic beauty
- Enjoy physical exercise
- Experience the open space
- Improve my physical health
- Relax

CHANGES

- Enjoy the solitude hasn't been in top five since 2008
- **Enjoy the sounds and smells of nature** was replaced by **relax** in 2019



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PLAN ELEMENTS



Providing and maintaining quality outdoor places matter to our citizen's well-being, to attract and retain knowledge-based employers and employees, foster a livable region, and to provide opportunities to expand tourism.



We know residents place a high value on our Sonoran Desert heritage. Protecting quality outdoor places for future enjoyment will be challenging, but deeply appreciated. Planning for and responding to rapid growth will be critical for the future of our region.



Quality outdoor places are a critical element in providing visitor experiences that energize, inspire, and restore visitors.



Protecting, maintaining, and restoring quality county parks and open spaces will pose a serious challenge that will require diligence, leadership and regional collaboration to achieve long-term sustainability.

EXCEPTIONAL VISITOR EXPERIENCES

SUSTAINING AND MAINTAINING PARK RESOURCES

REGIONAL IMPACTS TO QUALITY OF LIFE AND THE ECONOMY

PRESERVING REGIONAL NATURAL HERITAGE

QUALITY REGIONAL SYSTEM OF PARKS, OPEN SPACE, AND TRAILS

OCT-FEB

2. INITIATE INPUT PROCESS

- Form steering committee
- Define public participation process
- Interview key stakeholders and staff

3. PERFORM INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS

- Cultural and natural resource inventory
- Visitor experience and community needs
- Facility inventory and capital improvement
- Operations and financial assessment
- Economic impact analysis
- Program analysis
- Land use analysis

NOV-FEB

1. OUTLINE PLANNING PROCESS

- Define purpose and need
- Review trends, broad scale issues, and relevant plans
- Identify success over the last ten years
- Define process steps
- Establish the project schedule

4. DEVELOP BROAD GOALS

- Synthesize initial data
- Determine areas of further analysis
- Draft plan goals or issue areas
- Review mission and vision
- Focus Group Analysis

JAN-FEB

COVID BREAK

8. FINALIZE THE PLAN

- Plan approval
- Plan implementation over the next ten years

5. INITIATE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

- Host virtual open-house meetings
- Conduct on-line input
- Refine goals
- Develop objectives

SEP-NOV

JUN-JUL

7. PUBLIC REVIEW AND REFINEMENT PROCESS

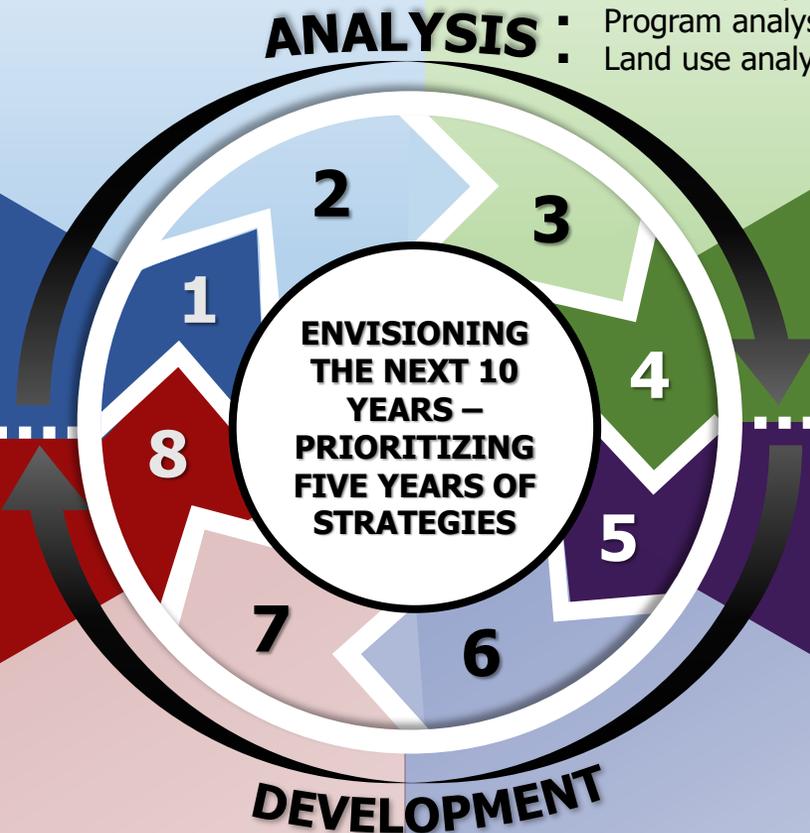
- Draft review
- Final update to the public
- Parks Commission review and input
- Board of Supervisors' review and input

DEC-FEB

MAR-MAY

6. PLAN CONCEPTS AND PRIORITIES

- Refine goals
- Establish objectives
- Determine priorities
- Identify key strategies
- Finalize Mission and Vision



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***QUESTIONS
or
COMMENTS?***



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