



# PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES REGULAR MEETING



July 14, 2017

Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation Department  
3500 West River Road, Tucson, Arizona

Quorum having been established, Chair Lundin called the meeting to order at 9:31 a.m. on July 14, 2017.

Commissioners present were Michael Lundin (Chair) Jan Johnson (Vice Chair) Victor Rivera, Damion Alexander, Anita Kellman, and Peter Chesson. Kimberly Marohn, Karen Cesare, Enrique Serna and Richard Barker were absent.  
Staff present were Chris Cawein, Robert Padilla, Sherrie Barfield, Valerie Samoy, Steve Anderson, Robin Hadden and Ann Khambholja.

Those present recited the pledge of allegiance.

## Consent Agenda

A motion was made and seconded to approve the May 12, 2017 minutes. The motion passed.

## COMMISSION DISCUSSION/ACTION REQUEST

1. Recognition of Eagle Scout Jason Steinnecker for his NRPR Project: Last December Mr. Steinnecker through his Boy Scout troop coordinated a community service project at Ann Day Northwest Community Park. He and his group laid out irrigation, dug holes and planted 19 trees at the dog park to provide a natural shade canopy. He started with the Cub Scouts and stayed on with the Boy Scouts where he earned the rank of Eagle in March 2017. Jason was recognized and presented with an award for his service to NRPR.

2. Rillito Racing Season update (Jaye Wells): Mr. Wells provided the commission a copy of the 2013 concept plan envisioning their use for Rillito Regional Park. Mr. Wells provided a synopsis of the current state of affairs for the Jelks House, Infield Special Events, Pima County Maintenance Facility, Rillito Racing, The Loop, Heirloom Farmer's Market and Rillito Field sports Facility.

Mr. Wells provided a second handout showing revenue streams for the past four racing seasons. Mr. Wells informed them that there was about a 100 million wagered in Arizona alone, but Rillito only receives \$100,000 due to an imbalance in state law. However, the average race day gross revenue has increased over the years, but this year it stagnated mainly due to the weather. He also informed them that the simulcast wagering and Rillito Export-Live on Track had brought in a lot of revenue. Mr. Wells said that Rillito Racing

received an extension through June 30, 2021 provided they provide \$1 million dollars toward capital improvements to the racing facilities. Rillito Racing currently receives a monthly revenue stream that comes from off track betting. The betting done in Pima County is \$11 million, however the tracks deduct 20% and Rillito receives only about \$200,000 of that money. The Foundation is lobbying against these rules and so far has seen some success. They are also looking for help from private lenders and benefactors since 2018 is the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Rillito Downs.

3. Trail assessment at Tucson Mountain Park including the number of trails and the criteria for trails (Chris Cawein): Mr. Cawein provided a power point presentation regarding the history of trails in Tucson Mountain Park. Tucson Mountain Park encompasses approximately 21,000 acres of which 65 acres or .3% is occupied by trails. One problem NRPR continually faces is the proliferation of trails caused by unauthorized wildcat or social trails. If NRPR does not build trails someone else will and those trails will generally not be sustainable over time. NRPR has adhered to the Board approved Regional Trails Master Plan which included public review and input. The increase of unauthorized trails is primarily due to the large increase of residential development. A 2007 study from a consultant revealed that approximately 155,000 walkers and cyclists used the trail system. Commissioner Chesson asked how the users were determined. Mr. Cawein indicated the consultant used trail cameras however we were not privy to what methodology was used by the consultant to ascertain that number. Commissioner Chesson asked if there was some statistical procedure that NRPR was using since you could use extrapolation to determine the numbers. Mr. Cawein informed him that NRPR was not using any statistics at this point, but is using trail cameras to determine the type of users. Mr. Cawein then informed the commission about the rules that guide the trail system which conform to the periodically updated Trails Master Plan. He also emphasized that every small new trail did not have to go to the BOS, thus there is a process that where the needs dictate, NRPR goes ahead to develop the trails while seeking public input. Thus, we go forward to accommodate the needs of the public. All trails will conform to sustainable design standards. Unauthorized trails will also be examined to determine if they are feasible and either incorporated into the trail network or closed. Mr. Cawein informed them that NRPR prefers to focus more intensive recreational uses closer to the urban area around the fringes of the park and leave the core more for conservation. Sensitive archaeological and biological sites are avoided as far as possible. The planning process includes internal and external review of each new trail. To sum it up Mr. Cawein reiterated that NRPR strives to find the proper balance between conservation and recreation; that the majority of trails at TMP are wildcat trails, which NRPR is trying to remove or rehabilitate; the actual land disturbance by all trails is 0.3% of the available land at TMP. NRPR also realizes that needs evolve and we need to adapt to accommodate all park users.

#### CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

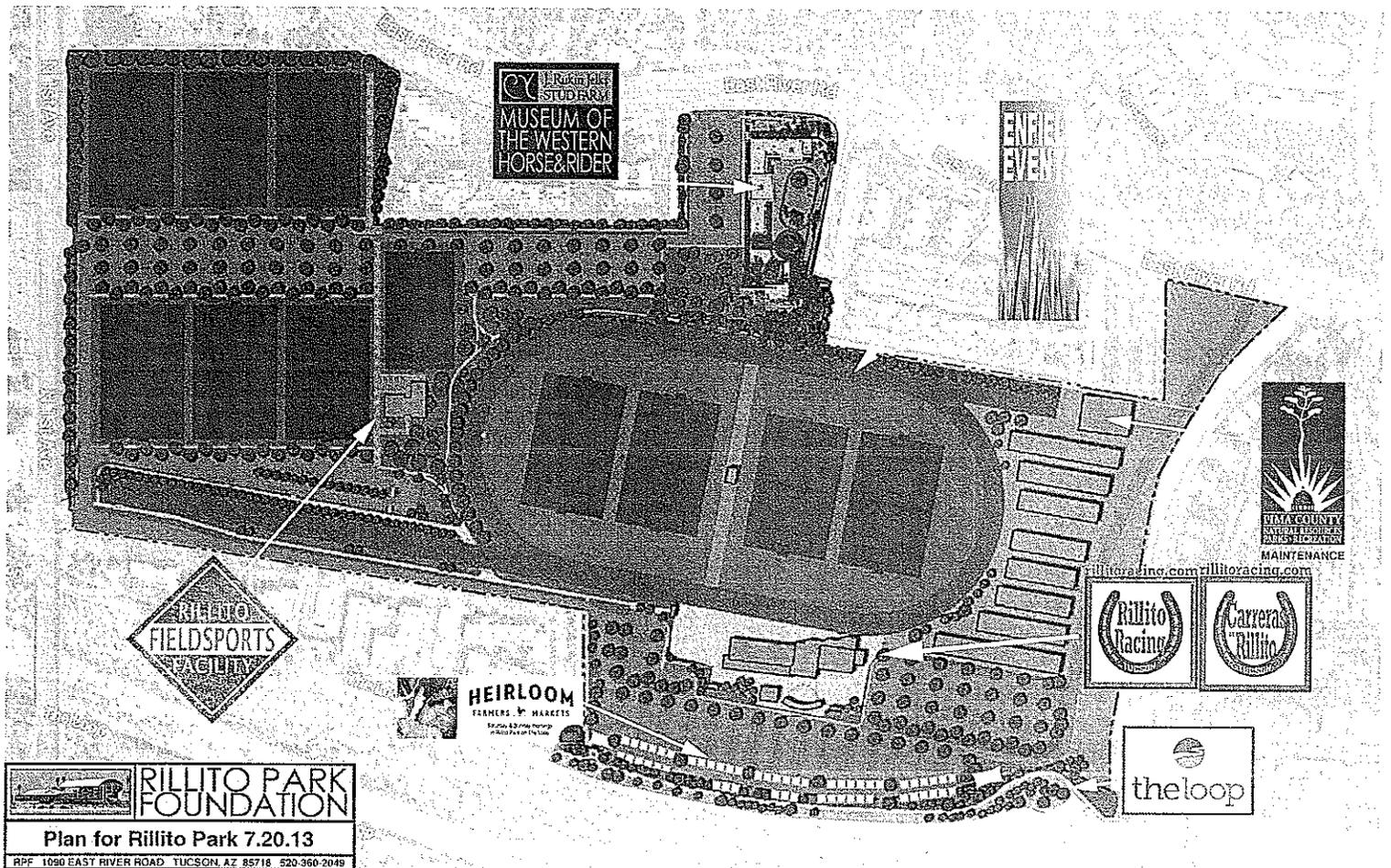
There were four members of the public that spoke on the Tucson Mountain Park trails item. Curt Larson, Wendy Erica Werden, Sue Clark and Betty Ohr.

4 Informational update regarding the Trails Courtesy Subcommittee meeting (Damion Alexander): Commissioner Alexander provided the commission with notes of the meeting and educated them on the behaviors that needed addressing. He also said that this was an opportunity to educate the public using signage, education, PSA's, providing information at events and sports stores. There are also several groups who have a vested interest in participation. There were no questions.

5. Informational update on NRPR's budget (Robert Padilla): Mr. Padilla provided the commission with an expenditure summary through June 30, 2017. He informed them that the June 2016 figures have not yet been received from Finance but he was able to extrapolate numbers from the County's financial system. Based on this data NRPR's revenues are forecasted to exceed budget by approximately \$200,000 due to stellar attendance at the campground. Other revenue increases came in from the Shooting Sports program and Leisure classes. Total expenditures are forecasted at \$17,384,501, which is approximately ½ of one percent under budget.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEM(S):

ADJOURNMENT: As there was no further business to come before the commission, duly motioned and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 11:17 a.m.



## A New Vision for Rillito Park

The Rillito Park Foundation (RPF) was created to bring a fresh perspective to the future of Rillito Park. The above Site Plan envisions a multi-use facility supported by 'one-voice' marketing and management. The Site Plan calls for (clockwise from above):

1. The J. Rukin Jelks Stud Farm Historic Site and Museum of the Western Horse & Rider - listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the Jelks Stud Farm is an architectural treasure. Pima County leased the property to the Rillito Park Foundation as stewards. Plans and renovation are underway to restore the house and gardens, with future plans to construct a western heritage, art, and history museum.
2. Enfield Events - with proper marketing and production, Rillito can host major concerts and events during racing season and throughout the year.
3. Pima County Maintenance Facility - A new structure to house existing on-site offices and operations of Pima County Natural Resources Parks and Recreation.
4. Rillito Racing - The Foundation proposes to lease the historic racing facility and operate under a new management structure. By expanding racing dates, restoring simulcast racing, focused marketing, and sharper controls, the racing can generate funds to more than double current purses, provide a realistic lease amount to Pima County, and support debt service for renovations and improvements.
5. The Loop - This section of the public bike and pedestrian trail would be improved to add public rest-rooms and shade ramadas.
6. Heirloom Farmers' Market - Plans are underway to create a site for farmers' markets, food trucks, car shows, and other attractions strung along the 1300' section of The Loop.
7. Rillito Fieldsports Facility - With the County planned relocation of the barns to the east end of the track, additional fields could be added bringing the total fields to 11, including 10 regulation fields and 1 practice field. A locker room and administration building would be constructed with tunnel access to the infield soccer fields.

# Comparison of Critical Numbers

2014



2015



2016



2017



## LIVE RACE DAY ATTENDANCE

Live Race Days	14	19	12	14
Total Attendance	58291	48927	48165	45037
Average Daily Attendance	4164	2575	4014	3217
Total Paid Attendance	25065	38962	27221	22987
Average Daily Paid Attendance	1790	2051	2268	1642

## WAGERING

Rillito Wagering - Live on Track	\$ 995,850	\$ 1,483,215	\$ 795,773	\$ 848,227
Simulcast Wagering	\$ -	\$ 222,965	\$ 221,991	\$ 134,956
Rillito Export - Live on Track			\$ 242,565	\$ 724,478
Total Wagering	\$ 995,850	\$ 1,706,180	\$ 1,260,329	\$ 1,707,661
Average Daily Live on Track Handle	\$ 71,132	\$ 78,064	\$ 66,314	\$ 60,588
Average Total Daily Handle	\$ 71,132	\$ 89,799	\$ 105,027	\$ 121,976
Average Daily Wagering per Patron	\$ 17.08	\$ 34.87	\$ 26.17	\$ 37.92

## SALES, MARKETING, & HOSPITALITY

Gate Receipts, Parking, Merchandise	\$ 113,922	\$ 260,573	\$ 193,073	\$ 150,324
Gate Receipts, Parking, Merchandise per Race Day	\$ 8,137	\$ 13,714	\$ 16,089	\$ 10,737
Reserved Seating	\$ 58,232	\$ 64,334	\$ 59,451	\$ 102,543
Reserved Seating per Race Day	\$ 4,159	\$ 3,386	\$ 4,954	\$ 7,325
Sponsorships & Advertising	\$ 37,501	\$ 71,455	\$ 74,099	\$ 138,490
Sponsorships & Advertising per Race Day	\$ 2,679	\$ 3,761	\$ 6,175	\$ 9,892

## CONCESSIONS

Concession Sales	\$ 299,014	\$ 491,061	\$ 332,101	\$ 382,696
Average Daily Sales	\$ 21,358	\$ 25,845	\$ 27,675	\$ 27,335
Average Daily Ticket per Patron	\$ 5.13	\$ 10.04	\$ 6.90	\$ 8.50

## GROSS REVENUE

Total Race Day Gross Revenue	\$ 566,908	\$ 1,418,813	\$ 906,675	\$ 893,599
Average Race Day Gross Revenue	\$ 40,493	\$ 74,674	\$ 75,556	\$ 63,829
Average Race Day Gross Revenue per Patron	\$ 9.73	\$ 29.00	\$ 18.82	\$ 19.84



# TUCSON MOUNTAIN PARK

BALANCING CONSERVATION WITH RECREATION

# BRIEF TMP BACKGROUND

- Established in 1929
  - Original footprint 29,000 acres (Population 32,500)
  - In 1961 15,000 acres transferred to Feds to create Saguaro Nat Monument (to prevent mining)
- Largest NRPR Natural Resource Park
  - Present TMP footprint ~21,000 acres
  - One of largest parks in US managed by a local government
  - Leased inholdings – Old Tucson, Desert Museum
  - Adjacent Saguaro NP West (~25,000 ac), CAP Wildlife Mitigation Corridor
  - Forms approximately ~60,000 acres of designated open space
  - Gradually being enveloped by residential development

# BRIEF TMP BACKGROUND (CONTINUED)

- History of firsts
  - Road 1883 (Gates Pass)
  - Trail 1931 (Amole Peak)
  - Master Plan 1937 (NPS) – Many CCC Projects identified, roads, picnic areas, campgrounds, dams, drainage structures
  - Preventorium 1937 (Camp Papago)
  - Old Tucson 1939
  - Desert Museum 1952
  - Mountain Biking late 1970s
- Visitation
  - Very popular.... but use numbers not known (estimates in 2006 were 2.5M with 1.4M using TMP facilities)

# TMP PUBLIC USE FACILITIES

- Roads
  - Gates Pass, Kinney, McCain Loop
  - Dirt roads
  - “Pullouts” (~50)
- Leased Inholdings
  - Desert Museum, Old Tucson
- Gilbert Ray Campground
- Rifle and Pistol Range, Archery Range
- Picnic Areas
  - Brown Mountain, Juan Santa Cruz, Ironwood
- Trails and Trailheads

# TRAILS AND TRAILHEADS

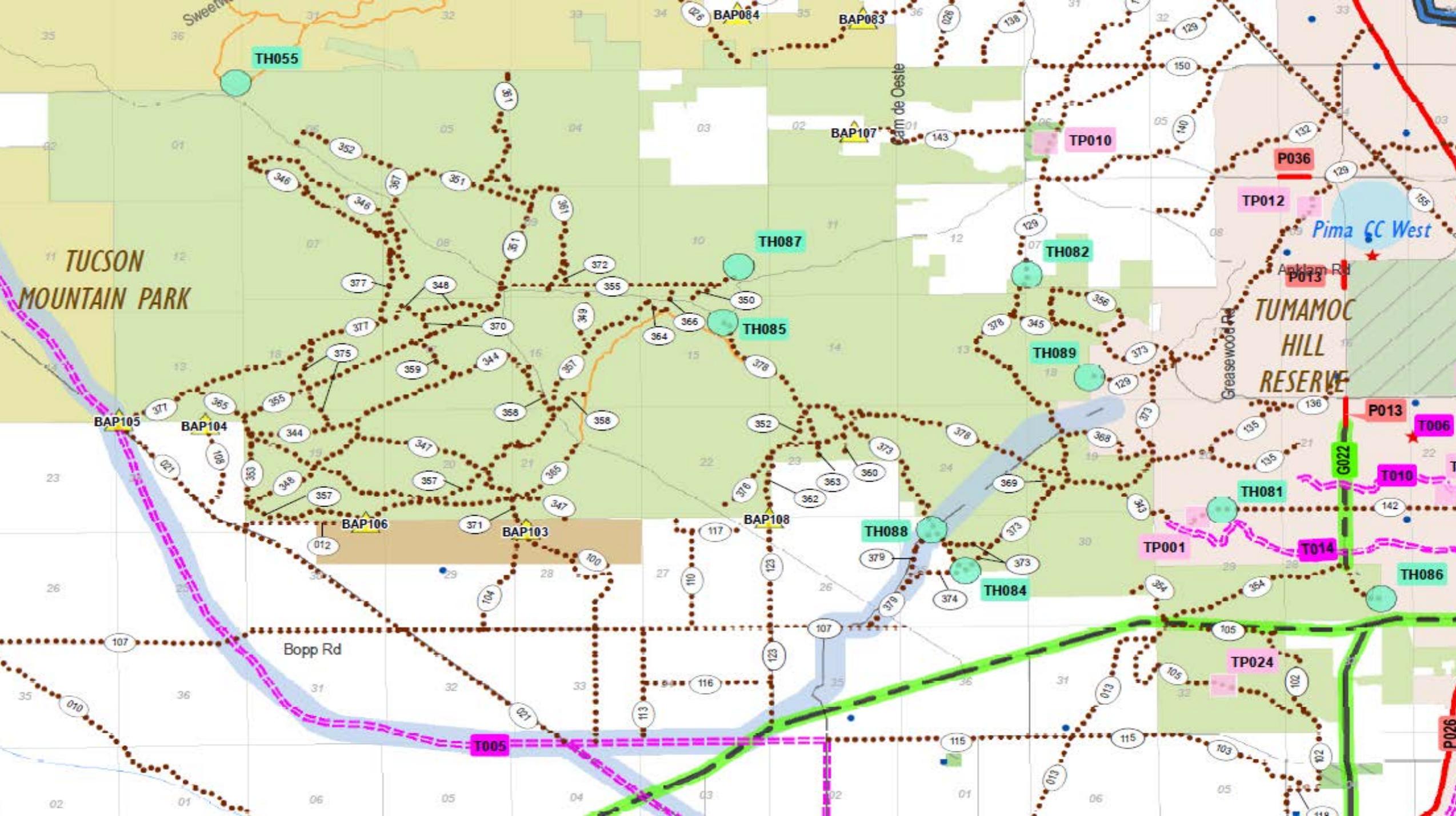
- Trailheads
  - Richard Genser Starr Pass
  - Camino de Oeste
  - King Canyon
  - 36<sup>th</sup> Street
  - Sarasota
  - Explorer
  - Gates Pass
  - David Yetman West
  - Brown Mountain
  - (Roadside pullouts)
  - Coming soon: Robles Pass, Painted Hills

# TRAILS HISTORY

- First authorized system trail 1931
- Map from 1980s showed 27 miles of trail in TMP
- Map from 2007 showed over 100 miles of trails in TMP
- Current Map shows about 150 miles of trails in TMP
- How did we get here?
  - TMP land increasing
  - Eastern Pima County Trails Master Plan – 1989, 1996, 2010, 2015 (System Trails)
  - Unauthorized/Wildcat Trails

# RECENT TRAIL CONCERNS

- “Proliferation of Trails”
- “Dangerous to hike due to Mountain Bikes”
- Key is striking the proper balance
  - Conservationist vs Recreationist
  - Recreationist vs Recreationist
  - Realist



SAGUARO NATIONAL PARK  
TUCSON MOUNTAIN DISTRICT

TUCSON MOUNTAIN PARK



ALL TRAIL USERS YIELD TO PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

**PIMA COUNTY**  
NATURAL RESOURCES  
PARKS & RECREATION  
3500 West River Road  
Tucson, AZ 85741  
520-724-5000  
www.pima.gov/nrpr  
01/2008/2011



# TRAIL IMPACTS IN TMP

- Total Land Disturbance from Trails

- Authorized System Trails ~27 acres (0.13%)
- Planned future System trails ~3.5 acres (0.02%)
- Unauthorized Trails ~35 acres (0.17%)

- Trails GIS Application

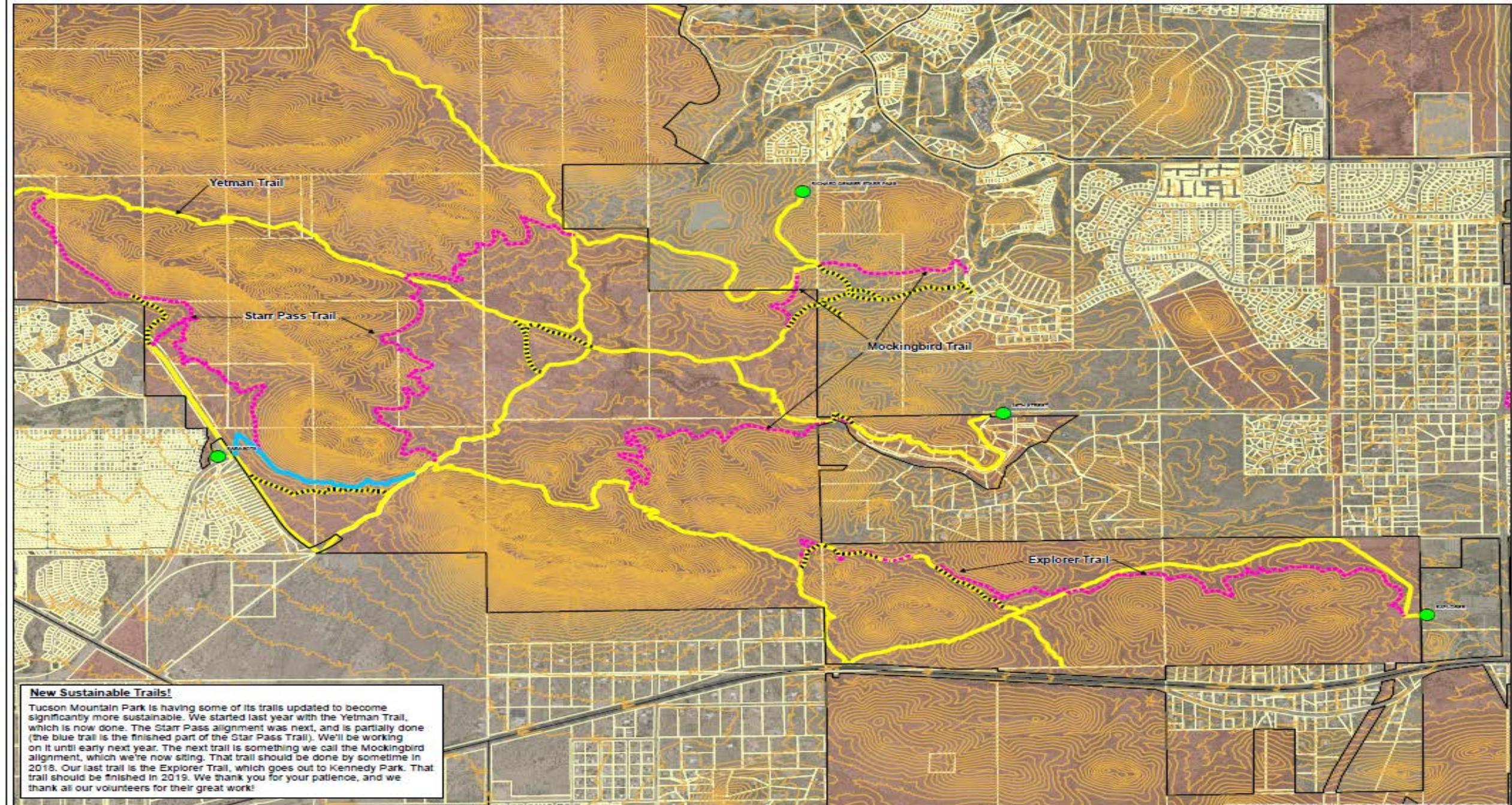
- Note where largest concentration of Unauthorized Trails is located

# TMP TRAIL USERS

- Estimated 155,000 annually back in 2007
- 2/3 foot, 1/3 wheeled
- Estimate 5-10% increase per year (240,000-365,000 users)
- Note on evolution of trail users – Hikers, Equestrians, Mountain Bikes

# NRPR TRAIL SYSTEM PRECEPTS

- If we do not build an adequate trail system on public lands in a timely manner, someone else will build an inadequate one;
- Our trail system will conform to the periodically updated BOS-adopted Trails Master Plan;
- All new System Trails will conform to sustainable design standards;
- Existing unauthorized trails will be examined to determine whether they can be salvaged and integrated into our sustainable trail network;
- If we build a new, sustainable trail to replace an unauthorized trail, we will close and restore the unauthorized trail in a timely manner;
  - Closure protocol includes: a physical deterrent at junction, a sign designating area under rehabilitation, a map of rerouted alignment, and ripping and restoring former alignment as deemed appropriate.



**New Sustainable Trails!**  
 Tucson Mountain Park is having some of its trails updated to become significantly more sustainable. We started last year with the Yetman Trail, which is now done. The Starr Pass alignment was next, and is partially done (the blue trail is the finished part of the Starr Pass Trail). We'll be working on it until early next year. The next trail is something we call the Mockingbird alignment, which we're now siting. That trail should be done by sometime in 2018. Our last trail is the Explorer Trail, which goes out to Kennedy Park. That trail should be finished in 2019. We thank you for your patience, and we thank all our volunteers for their great work!



**TUCSON MOUNTAIN PARK - SOUTHEAST**

- Trailheads
- Open Trails
- Starr Pass Trail (Phase 1)
- Concept Trails
- Trails to be removed
- 20-foot contours
- Pima County Parcels

1 inch = 500 feet  
 0 750 1,500 3,000  
 Feet



## NRPR TRAIL SYSTEM PRECEPTS (CONT'D)

- Focus more intensive recreational uses closer to the urban interface around the fringes of the park leaving core more for conservation/wildlife;
- Develop select, isolated areas of relatively low sensitivity to accommodate intensive specialty uses (i.e., Mountain bike course);
- Avoid sensitive or high value archaeological or biological sites to the extent possible. Siting hierarchy is avoid, minimize, mitigate;
- Conduct a robust planning process including necessary internal and external stakeholder review of each new trail.

# SUMMARY

- Finding the proper balance between conservationists and recreationists is the key element at TMP (and elsewhere).
- Majority of trails in the park are unauthorized/wildcat trails; removal and rehabilitation is challenging but underway.
- Largest area of trail “proliferation” in TMP is at Tucson Estates due to unauthorized trail development.
- Even with all the unauthorized trails, the actual footprint of disturbance imparted by existing and planned trails is 0.3% of available land in TMP.
- Trails Master Plan as adopted is being implemented and is periodically updated/focused as needs evolve. -  
Proposing Trails Master layouts for each of our Mountain Parks, then uploaded into Master Plan
- We are aiming at a moving recreation target – equestrian, hiker, mountain biker. Needs evolve and we must adapt being mindful of the underpinnings of the need to accommodate all park users.

## Behaviors that need addressing

### Bikes

Speed, No Bells, Not announcing they are there, head sets, entitled, crossing line, riding straight at oncoming riders, patience, or a lack there of

### Walkers

Changing Directions, head sets, crssing line, salmon, 3 or more across

### Opportunities to educate the public

Signage, Education, PSA's, Cyclovia, Unveiling of the Loop Party, Information at the running, hiking and bike stores, Bike Ambassadors, trailhead advocates

### Groups who have a vested interest in having a seat at the table

Pima County- Matt Zoll, Bike Ambassadors, Jeanette Mare – Bens Bells Randy Acceta- Arizona Roadrunners, Matt Nelson – Arizona Trail, Sharron- Running Shop, Evan Pilling – Sonoran Desert MTB, TORCA – Duncaon Caldwell Verie and Art, SAMBA- Carlos Resta, Equestrian, Hikers groups, El Grupo – Ignacio and Daniela, Living Street Alliance – Kiley Walzak, Brendan Lyons- Look Save a Life, Greater Arizona Bicycle Association Wayne Collup, Cactus Cycling- Wayne Collup, Doug Bauman, Meet Ups, Fran Katz

Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation  
 Monthly Financial Summary  
 For Period Ending June 30, 2017

	FY 16/17 YTD	FY 16/17 Adopted	Forecast	Variance
Revenue	\$ 1,188,729	989,550	1,188,729	199,179
<b>Expenditures</b>				
Personnel Services	11,760,924	11,823,312	11,760,422	62,890
Operating Expenditures	5,378,077	5,482,111	5,457,109	25,002
Capital Equipment	166,970	166,970	166,970	-
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>17,305,971</b>	<b>17,472,393</b>	<b>17,384,501</b>	<b>87,892</b>
<b>Net Fund Impact</b>	<b>16,117,242</b>	<b>16,482,843</b>	<b>16,195,772</b>	<b>287,071</b>