



PIMA COUNTY NATURAL RESOURCES, PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES REGULAR MEETING



November 8, 2019
Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation Department
3500 West River Road, Tucson, Arizona

Quorum having been established, Acting Chair Kellman called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. on November 8, 2019.

Commissioners present were Anita Kellman, Damion Alexander, Enrique Serna, Carol Kovalik, Peter Chesson and Victor Rivera. Michael Lundin, Chair, Jan Johnson, Vice Chair, Richard Barker and Robert Owens were absent.

Staff present were Robert Padilla, Neil Stitzer, Ron Odell, Joe Barr, Grant Bourguet, Jodi Layton, Allison Rock, Cliff Gyves, Robin Hadden and Ann Khambholja.

Those present recited the pledge of allegiance.

Consent Agenda

A motion was made and seconded to approve the September 13, 2019 minutes. The motion passed.

COMMISSION DISCUSSION/ACTION REQUEST

1. Informational update on officially renaming the existing Pima County Parks and Recreation Commission, the Pima County Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission and in that role affirming the current park rules adopted under Resolution 2000-3 as valid and enforceable: Mr. Padilla informed the commission that the park rules approved by the commission back in 2000 were not formally adopted by the Board of Supervisors. The department performed an exhaustive search of internal records and no record of Board approval was found. The department reached out to the Clerk of the Board and her office confirmed that no record exists of formal adoption. As a result the department requested and received Board of Supervisors approval at their October 15, 2019 meeting making the park rules valid and enforceable. In addition, the department utilized this opportunity to rename the parks commission to the Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee more accurately defining the role the commission currently serves in accordance with state statutes. There were no questions.
2. Naming of Field #2 and mural at Manzanita Park for Jazelle Armenta: Mr. Padilla informed them that this request came from Supervisor Elias office. Commissioner Kovalik asked how large the mural would be and Mr. Padilla informed her that it would be approximately 2' x 3'. She also asked whether the family had been involved and was aware of this.

Commissioner Serna informed her that Supervisor Richard Elias would not go ahead with this unless the family had agreed. Mr. Padilla informed them that Supervisor Elias office would work with Community Services and the Armenta family and have the mural created by Las Artes. Commissioner Serna told the commission that this school offers a unique learning environment for disadvantaged youth, which is combined with creating community art projects, while preparing them for the GED test. The commissioners unanimously approved. There were no further questions.

3. Trails Management: Mr. Neil Stitzer, Trails Coordinator provided the commission a power point presentation delivering an update on several projects. This included projects already completed, in progress, as well as updates on various cleanup projects performed by volunteers. Commissioner Chesson asked Mr. Stitzer where he obtained seeds for the Enchanted Hills revegetation projects and was informed that they were collected onsite or locally. Commissioner Chesson also asked when the project began and was informed that NRPR began revegetation while building trails, mostly transplanting prickly pear and cholla. Commissioner Chesson mentioned that there was very little vegetation at Sweetwater Preserve. Mr. Stitzer agreed that there was more effort put into Enchanted Hills, but that it was definitely on his radar along with Robles Pass. Commissioner Chesson asked when the decision was made to call it a trails park and Mr. Stitzer informed him that he believes it was adopted sometime during the planning process. Commissioner Chesson said that he thought it was a critical issue as these are natural resources and the designation matters. He also said that he had no recall of the name being brought before the commission. Commissioner Alexander said this property had been used for several years and the trails were not sustainable. He also recollected that when the property was purchased it was specifically for a trails park. He also asked whether Commissioner Chesson had seen the property prior to this when it was full of trash and glass, and used by quads, cars and other motorized vehicles. Commissioner Chesson agreed but asked whether it was evaluated from a point of the natural resources on this park since these provide critical habitat resources to Tucson Mountain Park. Mr. Padilla informed the commission that the Planning Division works closely with the Natural Resources Division when planning and siting trails whenever the county acquires large pieces of land to ensure habitat is not impacted. He also informed them that if the county does not come up with a plan to responsibly use the land, the result is quad use, dumping and other unintended consequences. The Enchanted Hills project is part of the regional trails master plan which included public meeting process. Commissioner Chesson said that there was a huge amount of glass at Painted Hills and Mr. Stitzer informed him that there was even more at Enchanted Hills. There was a general discussion on the best implement to collect glass and Commissioner Chesson was of the belief that kitchen tongs worked best and he agreed to work on a clean-up with Mr. Stitzer in the near future to see what method works best. Commissioner Serna was of the opinion that the extended tongs provided protection against snakes. Commissioner Chesson noted that some signs at Sweetwater Preserve were pointing in the wrong direction. Mr. Stitzer informed him that he was aware of it and would be updating the signs in the future. Commissioner Chesson asked about the Yetman Trail which is degraded. Mr. Stitzer informed the commission that the trails program relies heavily on volunteers for both trail construction and maintenance, thus addressing Commissioner Chesson's concerns regarding the Yetman Trail. There were no more questions. Acting Chair Kellman thanked Mr. Stitzer for his presentation.
4. Aquatics Program: The NRPR Aquatics team comprised of Grant Bourguet, Jodi Layton and Allison Rock provided the commission a power point presentation updating them on all

facets of the aquatics program for the most recent swim season. Commissioner Kovalik inquired whether non-slip tiles were used and was informed that 1" square tiles were used at Picture Rocks Pool which are ideal to preventing slippage. Commissioner Serna asked whether there was a water slide at Kino and was informed that there was one there. Commissioner Kovalik asked whether NRPR has plans for budgeting for the future renovations that would be needed in the next 10 years or so when the company may no longer be in business and was informed that re-engineering the pool was cost prohibitive at this time, but NRPR was definitely thinking about long-term periodic maintenance requirements.

Commissioner Kovalik asked whether the county had considered purchasing Breakers Waterpark and was informed that it was not advisable. Commissioner Rivera asked about whether NRPR had considered providing swim lessons for seniors and was informed that the county partners with the YMCA for delivery of senior swim programs. There were no more questions.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

FUTURE AGENDA ITEM(S):

Informational update on the pros and cons of electric bike usage on the Loop and county trails

Acknowledgement and recognition of an unknown staff member who possibly saved a man's life at Brandi Fenton Memorial Park on August 19, 2019

Follow up on Rillito Racing

Informational update on NRPR's Volunteer Program

ADJOURNMENT: As there was no further business to come before the commission, duly motioned and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

RESOLUTION NO. 2019 - 74

**RESOLUTION OF THE PIMA COUNTY BOARD OF
SUPERVISORS FOR AFFIRMATION OF ADVISORY ROLE OF
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION AND CURRENT
PIMA COUNTY PARK RULES.**

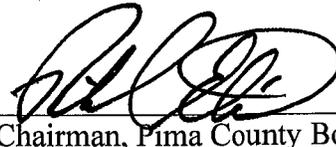
The Board of Supervisors of Pima County, Arizona finds:

1. The Pima County Board of Supervisors established the Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation Department in accordance with ARS 11-934.
2. The Pima County Board of Supervisors has elected to supervise and control all county natural resource, parks and recreation programs, thereby assuming the powers of a parks commission under ARS 11-935.
3. The Pima County Board of Supervisors regularly appoints and re-appoints members of a Parks and Recreation advisory commission to advise the Board on matters pertaining to county natural resources, parks and recreation matters in accordance with ARS 11-934.D.
4. The Pima County Parks and Recreation Commission adopted the current Pima County Park Rules in the year 2000 (PRC Resolution 2000-3), but no record exists that the rules were formally adopted by the Board of Supervisors;

Now therefore, be it resolved, that the Pima County Board of Supervisors affirms that:

1. The existing Pima County Parks and Recreation Commission shall be renamed the Pima County Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission and is authorized to act as an advisory only body to the Board of Supervisors on all County natural resource, park and recreation programs; and,
2. The Board of Supervisors will continue to function as the parks commission in accordance with ARS 11-935 and, in that role, hereby affirms the current park rules for the Pima County Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation park system, as previously adopted under Resolution 2000-3 of the Parks Advisory Commission, as valid and enforceable.

Passed and adopted, this 15 day of ~~October~~, 2019.



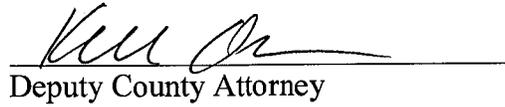
OCT 15 2019

Chairman, Fima County Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM


Clerk of the Board


Deputy County Attorney

KELL OLSON

PIMA COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

NOMINATION FORM FOR NAMING OR CHANGING THE NAME OF PIMA COUNTY PARK, PARK FACILITIES, OR OPEN SPACE PROPERTIES – PLEASE REVIEW AND ADHERE TO THE ATTACHED PROCEDURE WHEN COMPLETING THIS FORM.

Date Nomination Submitted: 11-5-2019

Submitted by: Nahrin Jabro - Chairman Elias *special staff assistant to*

Agency/Organization (if applicable): Pima County District 5

Address: 130 W. Congress St Tucson, AZ Zip Code: 85701

Contact Number: 5207248748 e-mail address: nahrin.jabro@pima.gov

Relationship to Nominee: constituents and park users

Type of Nomination (Please check): Name _____ Rename _____
 Park Park Facility Open Space

Current Name of Park/Park Facility/Open Space:

not currently named

Recommended Name/Name Change:

Jazelle Armenta Field

Justification for Nomination:

Please see attached 10-16-19 memorandum.

If more space is needed, please attach additional pages.



RICHARD ELÍAS
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD
COUNTY SUPERVISOR - DISTRICT 5

PIMA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

130 WEST CONGRESS STREET, 11th FLOOR
TUCSON, ARIZONA 85701-1317

(520) 724-8126
district5@pima.gov
www.district5.pima.gov

MEMORANDUM

DATE: October 10, 2019

TO: C.H. Huckelberry, County Administrator

FROM: Richard Elías, Chairman, District Five Supervisor *K. Byrd, for*

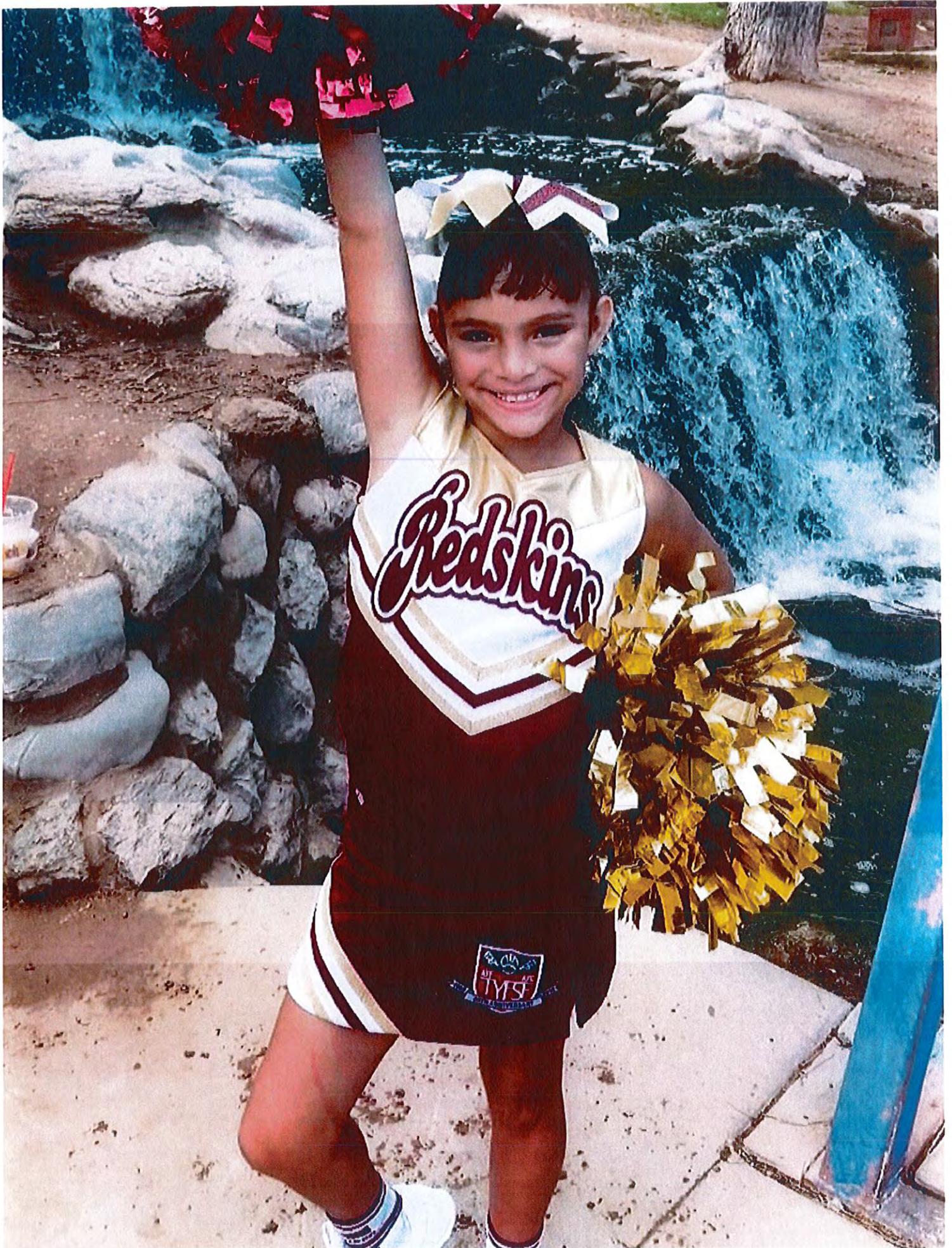
REGARDING: Field Dedication and Mural for Jazelle Armenta at Manzanita Park

On September 17, 2019, 7-year-old Jazelle Armenta was on her way to cheerleading practice when the vehicle in which she was riding was involved in a motor vehicle accident. She and four others were taken to the hospital, where Jazelle died shortly after. Jazelle's friends and family remember her as a "fearless and selfless" child who "always made everyone smile."

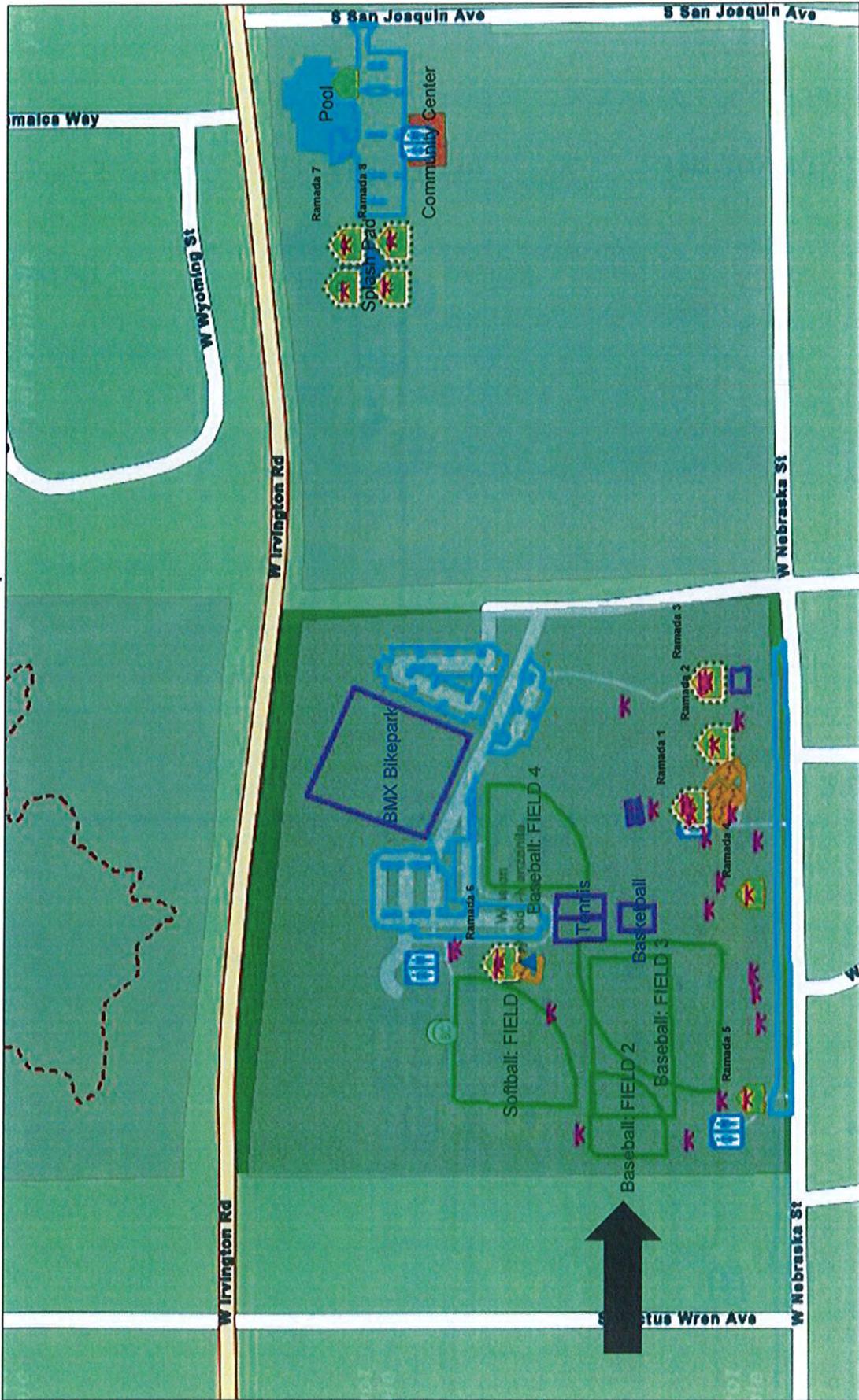
Jazelle cheered for the Tucson Redskins football team, which practices on a field at Manzanita Park. The Tucson Redskins and San Xavier Little League have been sharing Manzanita Park for more than 10 years. Each league pays for a field for a 10-month span, which creates revenue for Pima County totaling \$20,000 to \$30,000 each year.

The Tucson Redskins, the surrounding community, and Chairman Richard Elias request that one of the three Manzanita Park baseball fields, specifically the one that Jazelle practiced on, be dedicated to her (See attached map). It is also requested that the students at Las Artes Arts and education Center create a mural for the park, using the attached picture of Jazelle.

Thank you



ArcGIS Web Map



Date: November 5, 2019

To: Pima County Parks and Recreation Commission

From: Priscilla Lopez

Regarding: Field Dedication and Mural for Jazelle Armenta

I have been with the Tucson Redskins for over 10 years and with San Xavier Little League for 16 years. My kids have grown up at Manzanita park where both Redskins and San Xavier use for practice. Both leagues are considered family to all of us. So when we heard about Jazelle it broke our hearts. She was so young and full of energy.

I think dedicating and placing a mural on a field especially the one Jazelle practiced on is a wonderful idea. Since both Redskins and San Xavier are at Manzanita for at least 9 to 10 months out of the year it would be nice to walk the park and see the mural and let people know what a great community we have on the south side of town. And as we get older and see our grandkids play sports at this park and show them the mural and what a great organization the Redskins and San Xavier are. I appreciate you taking the time to read this letter.

Thank You

Pima County Parks and Recreation Commission,

This letter is to serve as my support of dedicating one of the baseball fields at Manzanita Park in memory of Jazelle Armenta.

Jazelle will always be remembered as a true representative of the spirit we try to instill in all of the players and cheerleaders at both the Redskins organization and San Xavier Little League (S.X.L.L.). She will truly be missed, but I can't think of a better way to remember her than to name this field in her memory and in her honor.

Thank you for your consideration.

Michael Rios

Respectfully,

Michael Rios

V.P. of Baseball (S.X.L.L.)

Redskins Coach (9U)

November 1, 2019

To Pima County Parks and Recreation Commission or whom it may concern,

My name is Brooke Gallup, Head Coach of the 8u Redskins Cheer Team. I have been a coach for two years but a volunteer of the Redskins much longer than that. This cheer season; my team and I went through a tragic time that we were not prepared for. On September 18th 2019 a cheerleader on my team by the name of Jazelle Armenta was in a terrible car accident on her way to practice which ended her precious life too soon. This was the 1st season that Jazelle was in cheer and immediately you could see her love for it. She was so outgoing and fun and always gave her full participation to the team. It was an honest joy to coach her. When we received the news that Jazelle did not make it and would not be back on our field to cheer again we were devastated. Our team struggled to go back to practice and things were forever changed from that point forward. My girls which are between 6-8 years old chose to keep Jazelle's spot in our cheer formation opened for the remainder of the season. This tragic loss has effected everyone in the community but it has especially effected my team. We came to practice each day and always remember the spunky Jazelle we had. I am requesting your consideration of renaming the field we currently practice on after our cheer angel Jazelle Monique Armenta. To come back to the field that Jazelle loved and have it named after her in addition to having a mural would mean so much. We can come back to the area for comfort in time of grief and show others what a special impactful little girl she was. The community really came to us all in our time of need for Jazelle and I was amazed. I want to put good to Jazelle's name and keep her memory alive, and there is no better way to do that than to have this field named in her honor. I thank you for your time and consideration in this matter and look forward to seeing the outcome.

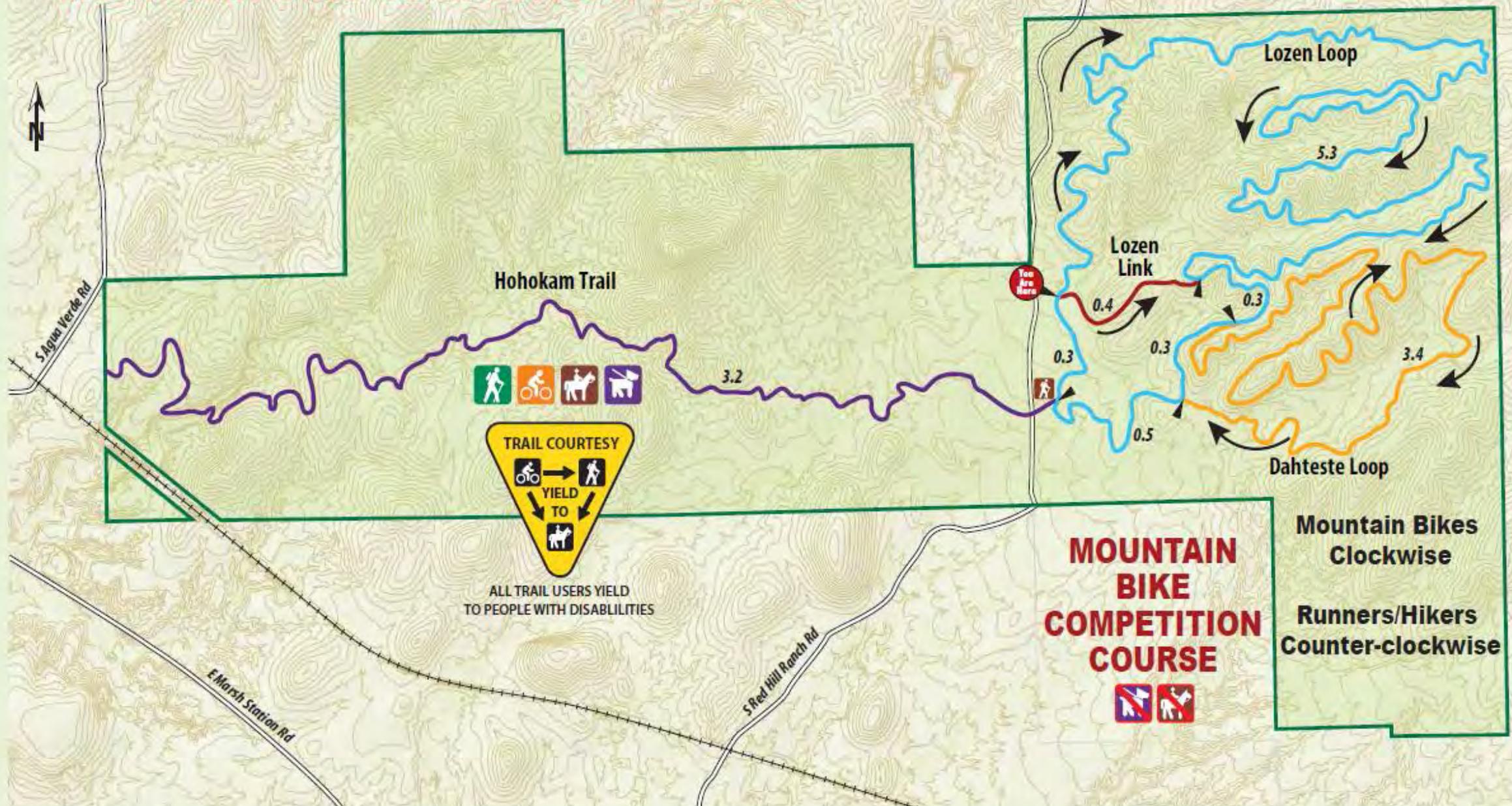
Sincerely,
Brooke Gallup
520-499-9001
gallupbrooke@gmail.com

McKenzie Ranch Trails Park

- **1,700 acres (Vail, AZ)**
- **Trail construction complete (November 2017 - September 2018)**
- **Mountain Bicycle Competition Course**
 - **10.5 miles**
 - **4 loop options of varying distances**
- **Hohokam Trail**
 - **3.2 miles (multi-use)**

MCKENZIE RANCH TRAILS PARK

MOUNTAIN BIKE COMPETITION COURSE



Hohokam Trail



ALL TRAIL USERS YIELD TO PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

MOUNTAIN BIKE COMPETITION COURSE



**Mountain Bikes
Clockwise**

**Runners/Hikers
Counter-clockwise**

McKenzie Ranch Trails Park: Project Support

- **Sonoran Desert Mountain Bicyclists (SDMB)**
 - **AmeriCorps / National Civilian Conservation Corps (NCCC)**
 - **Community volunteers**
- **Annual McKenzie Frenzy Mountain Bike Race (December 7, 2019)**

Current Projects

- **Enchanted Hills Trails Park**
- **Painted Hills Property**
- **Tucson Mountain Park Signage (Trails & Trailheads)**
- **Trails Parks Signage Update (Sweetwater Preserve & Robles Pass)**
- **Volunteer Program**

Enchanted Hills Trails Park

- **356 acres (36th Street Trailhead)**
- **7 mile trail system complete (December 2018 – July 2019)**
 - **New trail construction (5 miles)**
 - **Conversion of old roads (2 miles)**
 - **New trail impact: 5 miles = 1.8 acres**
- **Trail wayfinding signage (installation completed October 2019)**
 - **25 signs**



Enchanted Hills Trails Park: Project Support

- **Sonoran Desert Mountain Bicyclists**
- **AmeriCorps / NCCC**
- **Community volunteers**
- **Restoration experts**

Enchanted Hills Trails Park: Restoration

- **Area restored (to date) = 5.6 acres**
- **Net restored area (to date) = 3.8 acres**
- **Restoration project components:**
 - **Blocking motor vehicle access / dumping**
 - **Trash clean-up / graffiti removal**
 - **Invasive species**
 - **Re-contouring old roads and disturbed areas**
 - **Water catchment features / ground coverage**
 - **Revegetation (transplanting and planting/spreading seeds)**
 - **Discouraging off-trail use**

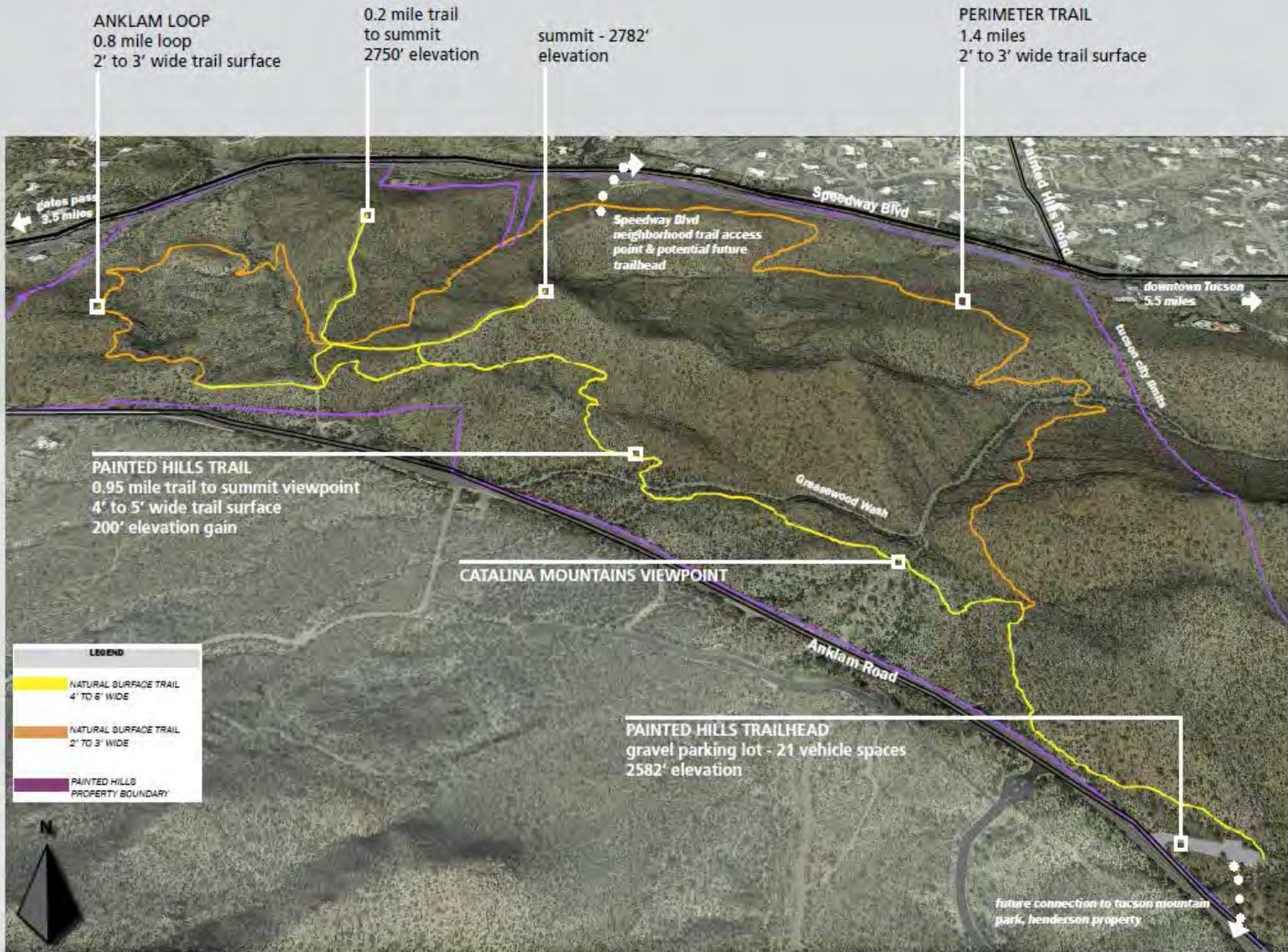
Enchanted Hills Trails Park: Restoration

- **New noteworthy vegetation (first season)**

- Scorpion weed
- Fluffgrass
- Acacia (whitethorn, catclaw)
- Foothills Palo Verde
- Trailing four o'clock
- Creosote
- Triangleleaf Bursage
- Brittlebush
- Desert Senna
- And many more!

Painted Hills

- **289 acres (West Anklam Road)**
- **Community volunteers**
- **Trail construction in progress (4 mile trail system)**
 - **2.5 miles complete to date, 1.5 miles remaining**
 - **Target completion: Spring 2020**
- **Restoration**
 - **Trash clean-up**

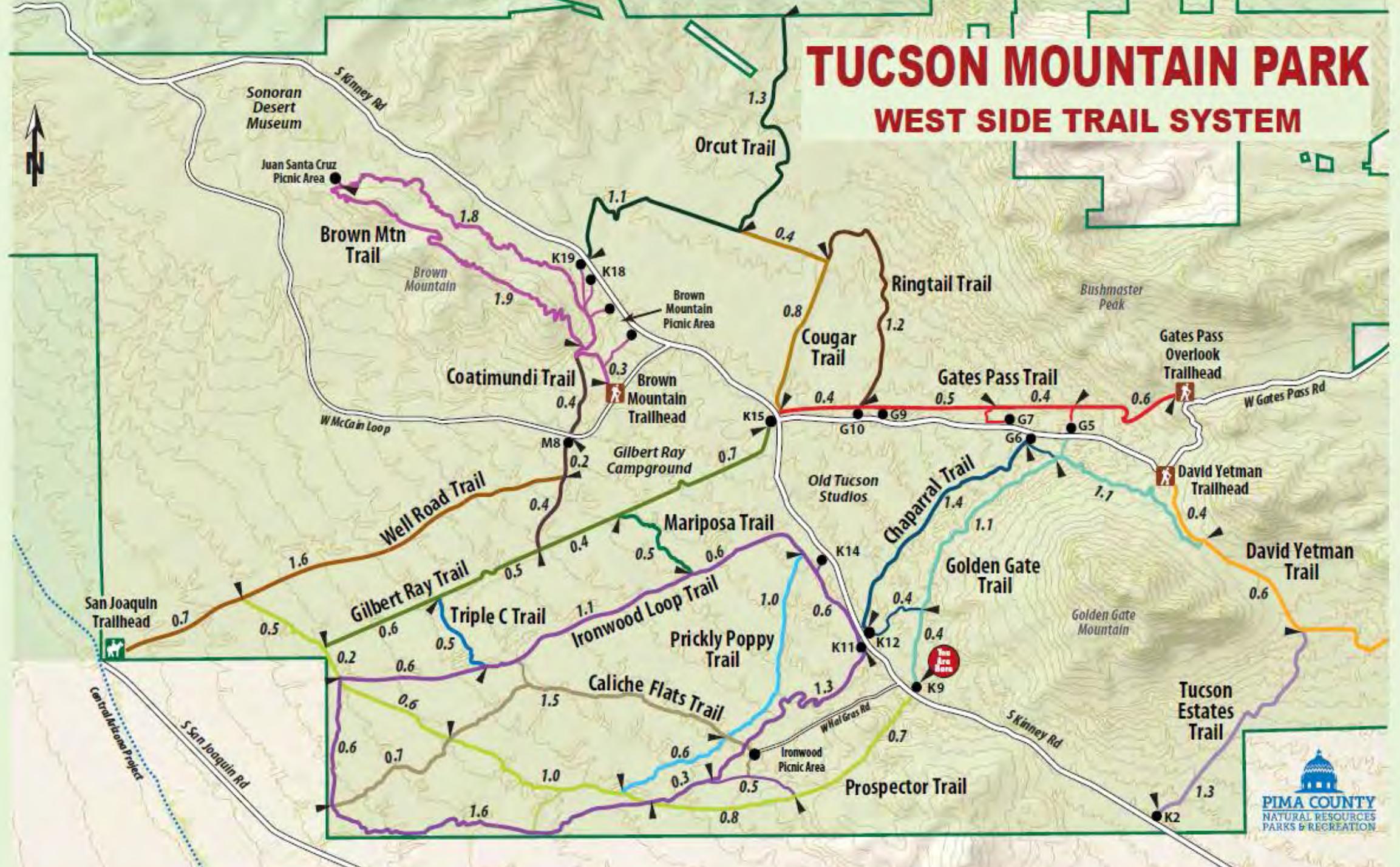


Signage: Tucson Mountain Park

- **New trail wayfinding signage and trailhead signage updates**
 - **East (of Gates Pass): Signage installation completed summer 2018**
 - **Approximately 90 signs total**
 - **West (of Gates Pass): Signage installation in progress**
 - **Approximately 140 signs total**
 - **Target completion: Winter 2020**

TUCSON MOUNTAIN PARK

WEST SIDE TRAIL SYSTEM



Volunteers

- **New trail construction projects and maintenance of existing trails**
 - **New volunteer recruitment**
 - **Volunteer appreciation/incentives**
 - **Volunteer training**
 - **Trail steward program**



AQUATICS

ANNUAL REPORT FOR PARKS COMMISSION

Grant Bourguet, Allison Rock, and Jodi Layton

REINVESTING INTO OUR AQUATIC FACILITIES



- \$466,000+ REINVESTED DURING FISCAL YEAR 2018-2019 BETWEEN NRPR, PIMA COUNTY FACILITIES MANAGEMENT, AND SCHOOL PARTNERSHIPS
 - PICTURE ROCKS POOL AND PUMP ROOM
 - NWYMCA-THAD TERRY WATERSLIDE
 - KINO POOL
 - WADE MCLEAN POOL ZERO DEPTH ENTRY

PICTURE ROCKS POOL-BEFORE



PICTURE ROCKS POOL-DURING



PICTURE ROCKS POOL-COMPLETED



NWYMCA-THAD TERRY WATERSLIDE



KINO POOL-BEFORE



KINO POOL-BEFORE



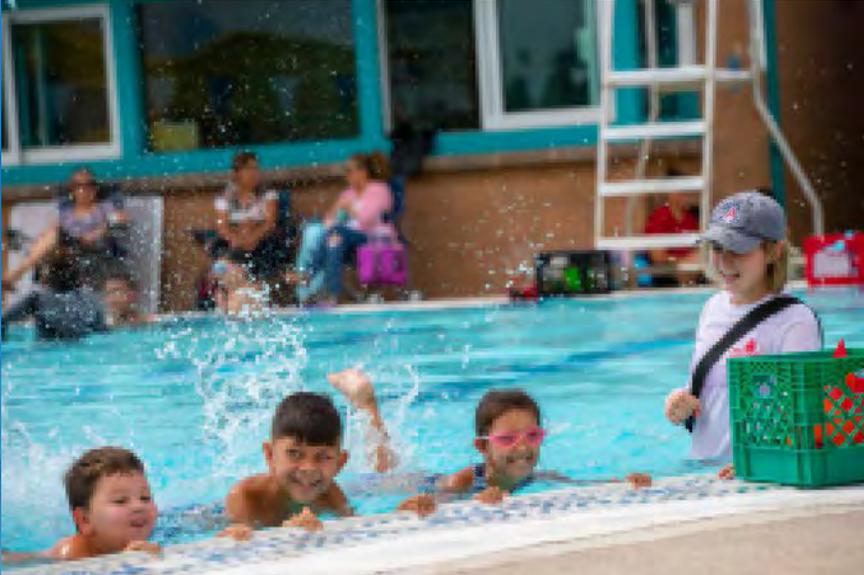
KINO POOL-DURING



KINO POOL-COMPLETED



SWIM LESSONS



- 1,937 TOTAL SWIM LESSONS REGISTRATIONS
- ADDED 320 LESSONS AT KINO POOL
- ALL REGISTRATIONS TAKE PLACE ONLINE
- 92% SOLD OUT

PARTNERING WITH TUCSON MEDICAL CENTER

- PROVIDED 800 FREE SWIM LESSONS AND FREE LIFEJACKETS AT THREE POOLS WITH THE VEST IT UP PROGRAM
 - HOW PIMA COUNTY GOT INVOLVED
 - LOCATIONS
 - KINO
 - FLOWING WELLS
 - LOS NIÑOS



GETTING THE WORD OUT ABOUT VEST IT UP



- SOCIAL MEDIA
- BUS WRAPS
- SCHOOL FLYERS
- WEBSITE

KNOCKING VEST IT UP OUT OF THE PARK



- VEST IT UP SWIM LESSONS SOLD OUT IN ONLY FOUR HOURS
- NRPR THANK YOU BANNER GIVEN TO TMC
- TMC ALREADY COMMITTED TO CONTINUING THE PROGRAM AND PARTNERSHIP IN 2020

JUNIOR LIFEGUARDING

- OFFERED AT ALL 9 POOLS
- 11-15 YEAR OLDS
- 4 WEEK LONG COURSE
- MOST BECOME LIFEGUARDS FOR PIMA COUNTY



SWIM TEAM "BACK TO THE 80S" THEME

- 819 PARTICIPANTS
- 500+ REGISTERED ON DAY ONE
- 7 TEAMS SOLD OUT
- 95% OF PROGRAM SOLD OUT
- CHAMPIONSHIP SHIRTS SOLD OUT IN MINUTES



AJO "DIVE IN" MOVIE ON MAY 31ST

- 175 PEOPLE ATTENDED AJO EVENT
- NETWORKING WITH THE COMMUNITY
 - HELPS GET AJO LIFEGUARDS
 - INFORMS PEOPLE ABOUT SUMMER AQUATIC PROGRAMS



CONTINUING EFFORTS TO STREAMLINE OUR EMERGENCY ACTION PLANS

- ALL NINE POOLS PARTICIPATED WITH THEIR RESPECTIVE FIRE DEPARTMENT
- STREAMLINING THE EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN



OTHER AGENCY TRAININGS AND PARTNERSHIPS



- FIRE DEPARTMENTS
- ARMY
- PIMA COUNTY SHERIFF DEPARTMENT
- AIR FORCE
- KVOA SWIMFEST

USING MEDIA TO GET THE WORD OUT

- NEWS PAPERS
- PRESS RELEASES
- SOCIAL MEDIA
 - FACEBOOK
 - INSTAGRAM



Ajo Copper News 50¢
Ajo, Pima County, Arizona Tuesday, July 16, 2019 Volume 95, Number 46 ©2019

AICo got rate increase when ACC reconsidered

The no vote in May on the Ajo Improvement Company rate increase request was not the final decision of the Arizona Corporation Commission. On Wednesday, after hearing from the utility, Pima County, Robert Sorrells, ACC staff, and citizens, it approved a rate increase. Though still high enough to cause consternation among the utility's customers, it was significantly lower than originally requested.

In December 2017, Ajo Improvement had filed for a 507.2% increase in sewer rates, 132.17% increase in electric rates, and 356.97% increase in water rates, all to be phased in over five years. These rates would have quadrupled some customers' bills.

Community opposition, led by Robert Sorrells who filed as an official intervenor, caused Sorrells was joined in an intervention by Arizona Water Company and Pima County. The matter went through a comment session in Ajo held by then-commissioner Andy Tobin and then an evidentiary hearing in Tucson before Administrative Law Judge Heidi Marie who issued a Recommended Opinion and Order that included slightly lower rates and a longer phase-in period.

At the May open meeting of the ACC, an amendment by Tobin was voted down, but so was approval of the RCO. Commissioner Justin Olsen felt that a decision hadn't been rendered in the case and, after Tobin resigned to head a state agency, AICo asked the ACC to reconsider the vote. They did, and voted on Wednesday, July 10, to approve an amended RCO with a 9% operating margin, 10-year phase-in, and a requirement that AICo not ask for further increases for 8 years, and then for only one division at a time. Commissioners Robert Horn, Boyd Dunn, Sandra Kennedy, and Justin Olsen voted yes and Commissioner Lou Marquez Peterson, who replaced Tobin, voted no. Marquez Peterson had proposed an amendment that would allow a 10% operating margin but Olsen said he felt "One could argue that this is a confiscatory rate, that it is a taking of private property."

Marquez Peterson's request to delay the vote to further study customer requests was also voted down. "This is still a great rate shock for customers in Ajo, and this whole process has been flawed," she said.

In their July open meeting highlights, the ACC wrote:

Commission Approved Entry Rate Increase for Ajo Residents

The Commission approved the joint application Ajo Improvement Company filed for an increase in its authorized rates and charges for the company's water, wastewater and electric divisions. The company is a class C public service corporation providing water, wastewater and electric service to approximately 1,000 connections each in a one square mile area of Ajo in Pima County. The company has made over \$47.5 million of capital improvement since its last rate case, to repair the water, wastewater and electric division systems. At the company's application, it requested a 20 percent operating margin for its water and wastewater divisions and 12 percent operating margin for its electric division. In the final decision reached by the commission, the company's application, it requested a 10 percent operating margin. The increase will be implemented over a 10-year period. The company will not be allowed to collect lost revenue and interest caused by the phase-in. Other provisions require the company to not file a new rate case until 2027 and to file future rate cases for only one division at a time. The company has agreed to provide \$20,000 per year to full assistance in years one and two of the new rates and \$10,000 per year thereafter as an alternative to a Low-Income tariff as proposed by Commissioner Kennedy. Lastly, the Commission adopted the Kennedy-Anderson that will require the company to make available programs for assistance to displaced service members and a discount to disabled military veterans.

All discussions relating to this agenda item can be found in the Corporation Commission's online docket at <https://cc.azcc.gov> and entering docket number R5-61025 at 17-0564, -0562, -0563.

It should be noted that the operating margin is not the amount the rates increased, it is the ratio of operating income to net sales, usually presented as a percentage.

The ACC has yet to approve the deployed service members tariff so final figures are not available. Rough estimates are that most people will see their monthly bills increase annually by about 25%, starting with the August billing period, although a bank credit will lessen the actual increase during the first three years. Overall, depending on usage, the increase will not quite triple bills over the next decade.

"We recognize this has been a long process and would like to thank our customers for their patience as we worked for resolution. AICo looks forward to continuing to provide quality service while ensuring a sustainable business for years to come," said Roy Ankler, president of Ajo Improvement Company.

Robert Sorrells said, "You have the details in this article, but here's what's happening. Take a quarter of this month's bill. In August, add it to the total. Example: a July bill of \$100 becomes \$125. For the next ten years, in August, again add the \$25.

"Yes, this rate goes high, but we're much better than we would have been before July 16th last May. It would've been much higher spread over just three years. Instead, it is about 25% less over 10 years. Also, they can't raise their rates at the same time. I haven't had my utility one up since! To accomplish this? No one thought we could do it. We did," said Sorrells.

"We can help ourselves. I'm not tired of this but will pop up occasionally with suggestions. And remember - all of you - if Ajo acts together, we can do incredible things."

Saturday's swim meet at the Ajo Community Pool at E.S. "Stu" Walker Park hosted over 700 swimmers from around the county in more than 60 swim events for Pima County swimmers up to age 18.

Just one countywide meet is held in Ajo each year. Because of its timing, just before the final championship meet, it has become a kind of de facto semi-final. During the season, swimmers compete in other meets capturing their best time from all to see if they qualify for a final heat slot in the championship swim meet at the end of the season. That championship meet this year is Saturday, July 20, in Marana. That means the Ajo meet is the last chance swimmers have to advance into one of the limited final heat slots, or to defend their place.

Many swimmers from Ajo did improve their time, some making it into the finals, giving the Ajo Desert Sharks a great showing in the championship. 20 include swimmers from Ajo, who beat out swimmers from larger communities to take their places.



LOCAL NEWS WEATHER WATCH US LIVE SPORTS AZ WEEKEND

TOP STORY

Pima County pools to open May 25



Pima County pools open (Source: Garry Lewis)

By KOLD News 13 Staff | May 16, 2019 at 9:52 AM MST - Updated May 16 at 9:52 AM
TUCSON, Ariz. (KOLD News 13) - Grab your towels and sunscreen! Pima County opens all nine of their



FOURTH OF JULY-CANNED FOOD DRIVE



- BRING IN A CANNED FOOD ON 4TH OF JULY AND GET IN FREE
- ALL CANS COLLECTED DONATED TO THE AJO FOOD BANK CHURCH AND COMMUNITY FOOD BANK OF SOUTHERN ARIZONA
- DONATED 346LBS IN 2019

WATER SAFETY EXPO



HELD AT MANZANITA POOL ON AUGUST 17TH

WATER SAFETY EXPO



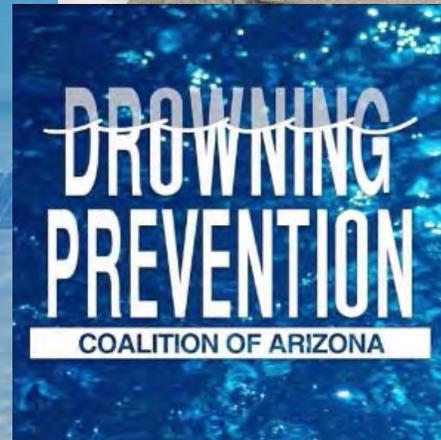
**Thank you,
sponsors!**

American Red Cross
Arizona Game & Fish Department
Banner University Medical Center
Drexel Heights Fire District
Drowning Prevention Coalition of Arizona
Independent Pool & Spa Service Association
Pool & Hot Tub Alliance
RosieontheHouse.com
Safe Kids Pima County
Tucson Medical Center
University of Arizona Skin Cancer Institute

HELD AT MANZANITA POOL ON AUGUST 17TH

DROWNING PREVENTION COALITION OF ARIZONA 2019 CORPORATE AWARD

- MORE THAN 300 COMMUNITY AGENCIES AND PARTNERS MAKE UP THE DPCA
- NRPR WON THE DPCA 2019 CORPORATE AWARD FOR OUR COMMITMENT TO WATER SAFETY IN AND AROUND WATER





QUESTIONS?