



**NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING
OF THE
PIMA COUNTY
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**



Notice is hereby given to the Members of the Pima County Board of Supervisors and to the general public that the **Pima County Parks and Recreation Commission** will hold a meeting, open to the public on **Friday, December 14, 2012, at 9:00 a.m.** pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.02 in the **Pima County Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation first floor conference room, 3500 West River Road, Tucson, Arizona (877-6000).**

NOTE: As of the posting date of December 12, 2012, no executive session item has been placed on the regular agenda. However, this is subject to an addendum.

Public comment will be taken. Members of the Pima County Parks and Recreation Commission will attend either in person or by telephone conference call. The Commission will discuss and may take action on the following agenda items.

AGENDA

(The order of the agenda may be changed to accommodate public comment.)

- A. CALL TO ORDER – ROLL CALL
- B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- C. CONSENT AGENDA: For consideration and approval
 - 1. Action: Approval of October 5, 2012 Minutes
- E. COMMISSION DISCUSSION/ACTION REQUEST
 - 1. Action Item: Renaming of the Canoa Preserve Softball Complex as Catino Sports Fields (Jan Johnson)
 - 2. Action Item: Revision to the Pima Trail Master Plan's River Park and Greenway Standard (Steve Anderson)

Staff recommends that the commission approve to change the Pima Trail Master Plan's River Park and Greenway standard trail widths from 12' paved path to 16' paved path and the 8' soft path to 10' soft path.

- 3. Action Item: Rescheduling of Pima County Parks and Recreation Commission Meetings (Jan Johnson)
 - a. New Day/Time: Second Friday of the month starting at 9:00 a.m.

b. Frequency of Meeting/Study Session: Monthly vs. Every Other Month

- (1) if monthly: regular meeting months (February, April, June, August, October, December); study session (January, March, May, July, September, November)
- (2) if every other month: regular meeting (March, July, November); study session (January, May, September)

4. Informational Presentation of Ongoing Wildlife Corridor projects and Planning Efforts in Pima County (Kerry Baldwin)

The presentation is an overview of the current wildlife crossing and corridor identification efforts in the county. The presentation will look at existing needs identified in the Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan and projects that have been identified, are in process or completed. Attention will be given to those projects that have a county nexus.

5. Informational Update: Pima County Multi-species Conservation Plan (MSCP) and the Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan (Julia Fonseca)

6. Proposal for the following staff to make a presentation before the Commission as scheduled as to their role and accomplishment during the month prior to the scheduled commission meeting/study session. No action will be taken by the Commission and the presentation is for information only (Jan Johnson)

- a. Recreation Division Center Coordinators
- b. Operation/Maintenance Division Supervisors
- c. Natural Resource Division Supervisors
- d. Special Project Division Supervisors

7. Parks and Recreation Commission Volunteer Day at Pima Prickly Park (Jan Johnson)

8. Commissioners Update Report

- a. Beat Cancer Boot Camp (Anita Kellman)
- b. Canoa Sports Complex (Chuck Catino)

F. DIVISION UPDATE REPORTS: Division Managers will report on their recent activities related to the Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation Department. This item will be informational only and no action will be taken at this meeting. If further discussion is necessary, those items requiring discussion may be placed on a future Commission meeting agenda.

1. GeoMedia (Joy Mehulka)

- Loop Jerseys
- Loop signage
- Canoa interpretive signage

2. Natural Resources (Kerry Baldwin)

Open Space/Ranch Property Management

- Numerous well and irrigation problems are being addressed at A7 Ranch. Old equipment at ranch is wearing out
- The division staff completed a Comprehensive Resource Management Plan for Rancho Seco.
- Monitoring of the range condition is being finalized on ranches and data analysis starting. Summer rains have improved the conditions.
- The Sands Ranch has a new operations manager and livestock share owner. Individual also has local ranch and runs livestock on Las Cienegas with the Bureau of Land Management.
- Pima County has been asked to provide in-kind funds from the previous acquisition of the Sands and Clyne ranches to help develop a grant pre-proposal on native amphibian conservation in Las Cienegas Valley to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.
- County staff will help implement some new conservation and restoration efforts and develop a new comprehensive valley wide conservation/restoration plan in Altar Valley.
- The majority of the 14,000-acre Sopori Ranch has been surveyed to map baseline ecological units and range conditions for long-term monitoring. Planning Division is beginning to develop Coordinated Resource Management Plans
- The county will be acquiring an 8,000-acre ranch adjacent to A7 Ranch along the San Pedro River. The M Diamond Ranch will fill in gap between A7 Ranch and 6 Bar Ranch and also includes land trades with Oracle Ridge Mine project for conservation efforts.

Additional ongoing enhancement projects, planning, and survey work on the ranches:

- Post and cable barriers were installed and repaired along Davidson Canyon to limit motorized vehicle intrusions.
- Monthly water quality samples and use recordings were completed on open space property wells.
- Work has begun on two-mile long waterline replacement and installation of wildlife waters on A7 Ranch at the Brown's farm well system.
- Pima County continues to investigate and work on mitigation compliance where utilities got outside right-of-ways and impacted open space lands.

Invasive Species/Bufelgrass

- In cooperation with Southern Arizona Bufelgrass Coordination Center, the county has begun implementation of a \$3.4 million dollar bufelgrass control effort at the Mission Road complex and on Tucson International Airport
- The Sonoran Desert Weedwacker crews have been working on rugged and steep areas in Tucson Mountain Park and continue to add volunteer hours to their totals.

- Utilizing a grant from US Fish and Wildlife, the Natural Resource Division crew will begin to do some new invasive tree/shrub control in Cienega Creek in late December.

Environmental Education (EE)

- The EE program is gearing up for the normal increase in programs and outdoor recreational opportunities. The current spring program schedules will be provided to the commission and are always available online at pima.gov/nrpr.
- Program participation was 7,343 individuals in September and October.
- The EE staff is preparing to train volunteer docents and will start giving routine tours at historic Hacienda de la Canoa starting in February
- Two new part-time environmental educator positions are being created to fill a vacant position from a retiring staff member
- The urban wildlife trailer continues to be a good draw at events including the recent Tucson Meet Yourself.

Natural Resource Parks

- The Agua Caliente spring is currently not flowing again. Water levels continue to drop in spite of supplemental water additions. Mud flats are present. Several old eucalyptus trees had to be removed in park due to unsafe limb drops. The trees were severely impacted by cold temperatures two winters ago and old age. The Friends of Agua Caliente Park received from Jim Click Group a bike rack donation of a bike rack for park.
- Vandalism at the park has generated over \$40,000 of unplanned repairs and replacement costs in past four months.
- The Gilbert Ray campground at Tucson Mountain Park is beginning to get full. The registration building is open and our full complement of campground hosts are almost in for the season.
- Ironwood picnic area is open again after the road was washed out due to intense summer rains.
- Significant vandalism has occurred at 36th Street trailhead and Gates Pass area in park. A new solar gate was installed at 36th Street after several community clean-up sessions, increased Tucson Police Department patrols, and was destroyed after just a week in place.
- Use of the natural resource park trails continues to increase and be expanded.

3. Operations (George Kuck)

Arroyo Chico Basin

- NRPR through and Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Regional Flood Control District (RFCD) has assumed some maintenance responsibilities for the three retention basins constructed with the assistance of the Army Corps of Engineers. NRPR will be working with RFCD and local residents in developing a dirt BMX track at the facility and a community garden in the area near the building on site. The building will be renovated for use as a maintenance building and meeting area for community groups.

Julian Wash River Park

- NRPR has taken over the maintenance of the new paved path from Wilmot to Kolb and is waiting for the contractor to complete the final punch list items for NRPR to assume maintenance of the new section of river park with a paved path and landscaping going through Thomas Jay/Littletown Park.

Canoa Preserve

- The Operations Division will be taking over maintenance of the newly constructed park and softball fields at the end of December 2012.

Rillito River Park

- The Operations Division is working with various county staff and members from the bike community to develop a plan to open the Rillito River Park to nighttime usage.

4. Planning (Steve Anderson)

CAP (Central Arizona Project) Trail

- NRPR staff and county administration staff conducted a tour of the 32-mile CAP Trail corridor on November 28. County Administrator Chuck Huckelberry was pleased with the trail corridor and issued a memo stating 2013 the year of the CAP trail. Completion of the project is anticipated by the end of 2013.

Finger Rock Trail

- Installed a new 300' decomposed granite trail 40" to 48" wide on the east side of the roadway; removed the cable from the post and cable to enhance accessibility, trimmed all of the plants, and cleaned up the trailhead. The trailhead will service users of the Coronado National Forest's Finger Rock Trail more safely and enjoyably.

Arthur Pack Regional Park

- The approximately two miles of trails in the southernmost part of the park are almost complete. Staff installed a new gate at the park on December 1.

Hope Camp Trail

- After 19 years, Saguaro National Park's three-mile segment of the Hope Camp Trail opened in early November for use by mountain bicyclists. The Hope Camp Trail, when completed, will be used by Tucsonans to access the Arizona Trail. The acquisition of the next segment of the Hope Camp Trail is on Rocking K Ranch, which has been approved in the Specific Plan in 1997.

5. Recreation (Joe Barr)

Budget Process Summary Report

Participation Data

Community Centers and Recreation Programs	11,411
Ajo	2,732
Aquatics	2,207
Shooting Sports	2,604
Leisure Classes (contract instructors)	840
Mike Jacob Sportspark	357 teams
Special event permits (outside groups)	1,517
Brandi Fenton permits (outside groups)	714
Rillito Racetrack permits (outside groups)	9,000

Program Updates

- The Facilities Management Department has begun work at the Catalina and Picture Rocks community centers, and planning for a major air conditioning project in Ajo has started. The Ajo project will require closure of the Ajo Community Center between February and June of 2013. Staff will relocate to space recently vacated at the Ajo Annex building by the Community Food Bank. The Congregate Meals program provided at the Ajo Community Center may temporarily relocate to another local facility.

Environmental and Natural Resources Pathways

- NRPR's community centers continue to provide environmental and natural resource education in cooperation with Natural Resource Division environmental education staff and other agencies.

Upcoming Special Events

- 12/17/2012 Staff training for archery programs in cooperation with Arizona Game and Fish Department and the Oro Valley Parks and Recreation Department
- 1/31/2013 Ted Walker Youth Day at Old Tucson



6. Special Project/Task Force (Joy Mehulka for Robert Vaughn)

- Status Update – Canoa Ranch
- Native Plant Nursery Funding

G. FUTURE AGENDA ITEM(S)

H. ADJOURNMENT

Posted this 12th day of December, 2012, at www.pima.gov/nrpr/geninfo/commission.htm and at Pima County Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation Department, 3500 West River Road, Tucson, Arizona.

Pima County does not discriminate based on a disability regarding admission to public meetings. Persons with a disability may request a reasonable accommodation (such as large print agenda material) by contacting Gregoria Tucker or Ann Khambholja at 877-6000. Requests should be made at least 24 hours in advance to allow time to arrange the accommodation.