



ARIZONA
STATE PARKS & TRAILS

LOST DUTCHMAN STATE PARK, TONTO NATIONAL FOREST, APACHE JUNCTION

Annual Report

AZSTATEPARKS.COM

FY21

@vargasanyi76

Visitor Views



@kathrynelphotography



@colemanstacee



@dancurtisphotography



@holy_fire_photography

CATTAIL COVE STATE PARK, LAKE HAVASU CITY

Director's Message



Rediscovering Nature

Bob Broscheid
Executive Director
Arizona State Parks & Trails



More and more people have discovered, or rediscovered, nature during the past 18 months. Throughout the second half of 2020 and into 2021, COVID-19 raged across the country, giving people very few options for things to do. Kids were learning at home, parents were working from home, and restaurants, amusement parks, stores, and even municipal and national parks were closed. Arizona State Parks and Trails remained open. As one of the few states that did keep its parks open, Arizona attracted visitors who had camping reservations cancelled in nearby New Mexico, California, or Nevada. With restrictions in place and following CDC and Arizona Department of Health guidelines, we made campsites, cabins, trails and mountains available for safer outdoor recreation.

What that meant to people was amazing. In March 2021, we asked visitors to tell us about their experience during COVID and to let us know how Arizona State Parks and Trails helped. We were overwhelmed with responses from individuals and families who had been to the parks and found respite from the pandemic, found a new favorite place, or were simply thankful that the parks were still open for them to visit.

You can see some of the responses and stories later in this report.

Keeping our parks open and adjusting to changes in safety protocols definitely took up a lot of our time during FY21. However, just as our parks stayed open, we also continued providing grant funding, maintaining and updating our park facilities, celebrating anniversaries, welcoming board members and new staff, and preserving and protecting the natural resources in Arizona. In fact, we had several major accomplishments for the year beyond being a haven for our visitors.

Nearly 3 million people came to an Arizona state park during FY21. We were happy to welcome them and help them discover the variety of ways to enjoy and explore the great outdoors. Our parks will continue to be open and available to visitors for a quick hike, a weekend road trip or a week's vacation, as a getaway, educational experience, or just a place to enjoy the sunset.

See you in the parks!

Your Parks





SLIDE ROCK STATE PARK, COCONINO NATIONAL FOREST, SEDONA

@livecycledelight



SONOITA CREEK STATE NATURAL AREA, SONOITA

@mattswanderlust



PICACHO PEAK STATE PARK, ELOY

@ohanaexpedition



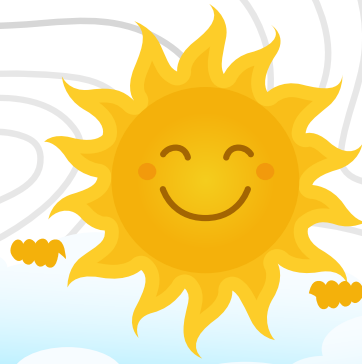
LOST DUTCHMAN STATE PARK, APACHE JUNCTION

@heythereimani



DEAD HORSE RANCH STATE PARK, COTTONWOOD

@waalerstock



“ Now I see the secret of making the best person, it is to grow in the open air and to eat and sleep with the earth.” – Walt Whitman



@wonderwherenow



PICACHO PEAK STATE PARK, ELOY

shay.rei

DEAD HORSE RANCH STATE PARK, COTTONWOOD

People in
Parks

TONTONUTURAL BRIDGE STATE PARK, PAYSON



@tbbaker777

PICACHO PEAK STATE PARK, ELOY



@mschossow



@brownsugar kar

RED ROCK STATE PARK, SEDONA

CATTAIL COVE STATE PARK, LAKE HAVASU CITY



@mski13339

ROPER LAKE STATE PARK, SAFFORD



@captaincarls





@thelittlecaravanthatcould



@jennylynkline



@pictureitprinted



@c_sue_mitchell



@rambling_raconteur_jack

*Nearly three million
people visited
state parks from
July 2020 – June 2021*

Total FY21 Visitation

 **2,986,090**



Highlights



We asked the public to tell us how Arizona State Parks and Trails helped during Covid-19 in a writing contest announced in March. The contest garnered great responses and stories about families, friends, and individuals exploring the parks, taking respite, and getting a much-needed breath of fresh air. In May, the winners were announced, and stories are collected [online](#), showcasing just how much open spaces and being opened meant to our visitors.



Third-place winner Stacey Padgett and family

We love and support the Arizona State Parks all year.

THANK YOU, AZ PARKS!!!!

Arizona State Parks have always been there for me and during this time of change

they have been my
consistent rock to
lean on.

Visiting the State Parks filled our weekends with joy and a feeling of closeness with nature and each other.

We have not felt confined!

Thank you, **State Parks people**, for keeping the parks open during the pandemic.

many visitors **You helped so**
you will never know how many and to what degree.

Not all states kept their state park systems open, but I'm sure glad Arizona did. Thank you Arizona State Park system! It really **adds greatly to our quality of life.**

Visiting Arizona State Parks has helped my family of six beat the pandemic blues. In 2020, we made a challenge to visit all Arizona State Parks.

Our whole experience has been amazing WITH A HUGE THANKS TO THE CAMP HOSTS, VOLUNTEERS, AND PARK RANGERS. We now have a bucket list to visit many more state parks.

We found a new reason to look forward to the weekend.



In early 2021, people and events began to come back. Anecdotal information from park staff and visitation numbers showed that visitors continued to seek outdoor spaces, sometimes in record numbers. In FY21, more than half a million visitors came to **Lake Havasu State Park**. **Red Rock State Park** had its highest visitation ever on record in April. Visitation numbers overall were the highest since 1991 in October and December.

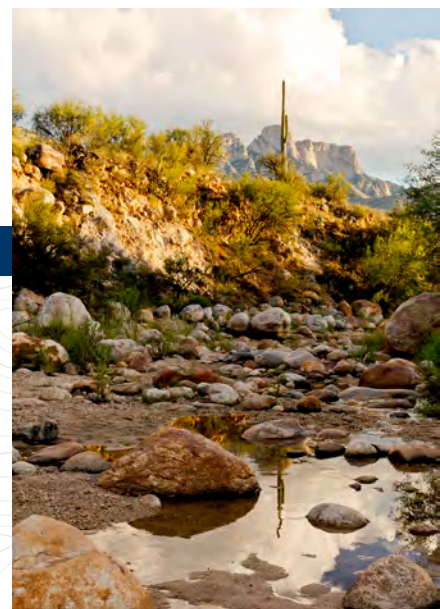


@davevincentphoto

R **ioridan Mansion State Historic Park** in Flagstaff closed during the pandemic and was struggling to reopen. The park had been run by the Arizona Historical Society since 2010, and resources were spread thin. In October 2020, the Arizona Historical Society voted to terminate the partnership agreement, putting Riordan Mansion back into Arizona State Parks' control. After making some updates and staffing changes, the park reopened on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays on June 11, 2021. The park manager transitioned from the Arizona Historical Society to an Arizona State Parks and Trails employee, continuing her 22 years of service at Riordan Mansion State Historic Park.



At **Tonto Natural Bridge State Park**, we made improvements for the longevity of the park and the safety of our visitors. The pedestrian bridge, at the end of the Gowan Trail, was fully replaced and mitigated for the 100-year floodplain. This project involved blasting loose rocks off the canyon wall to reduce future catastrophe as well as raising and completely replacing the existing bridge. Helicopters were used on site as well as cranes to remove old materials and lower new into the area. Visitors were given reduced price entry during construction, but the new finalized bridge is in place and providing a great way to view this natural wonder.



At **Catalina State Park** in Tucson, we completed our first ever virtual public meeting for the draft Catalina Master Plan. The plan illustrates changes for the park to improve amenities, upgrade drainage and infrastructure, and repair trails. Catalina State Park was the site of the Bighorn Fire in June-July 2020, and this year faced many days of flooding in the park due to a wet monsoon season and the large burn scar on the mountains. As we move forward with the process, public input from this meeting and draft master plan will be incorporated into the finished design.

We also reached some pretty big milestones. In October 2020, **Fort Verde State Historic Park** celebrated 50 years as a state park, and 150 as a fort! The Town of Camp Verde celebrated the park and its contributions to the area with a parade themed “Go for the Gold.”



Not to be outdone, one team member reached a similar milestone in June 2021 – 50 years as an Arizona State Parks employee! **Charles Eatherly** began working at Arizona State Parks in 1971, when there were 11 parks in Arizona’s system. Eatherly has been instrumental to the process of adding parks and natural areas, participating in everything from drafting legislation, land acquisition, serving as legislative liaison, planning and development to opening the parks.



Arizona State Parks and Trails, in collaboration with the Arizona Game and Fish Department, launched the 2021 **Boating and Watercraft Survey**. Data gathered from people using Arizona’s lakes, rivers and waterfronts for boating and other water activities helps inform land managers of water-based recreation statewide, funding distribution, and resource management. Arizona focused on the experiences of resident Arizona boaters while also collecting feedback from all boaters while they are visiting Arizona waterways in the summer of 2021. The survey ran through September 2021.

Congratulations





OUR PARK **STAFF** Make the Difference!

A huge thank you goes out to the field staff at parks across the state! Our rangers kept parks open, clean and safe for visitors during a challenging year.

THANK YOU!

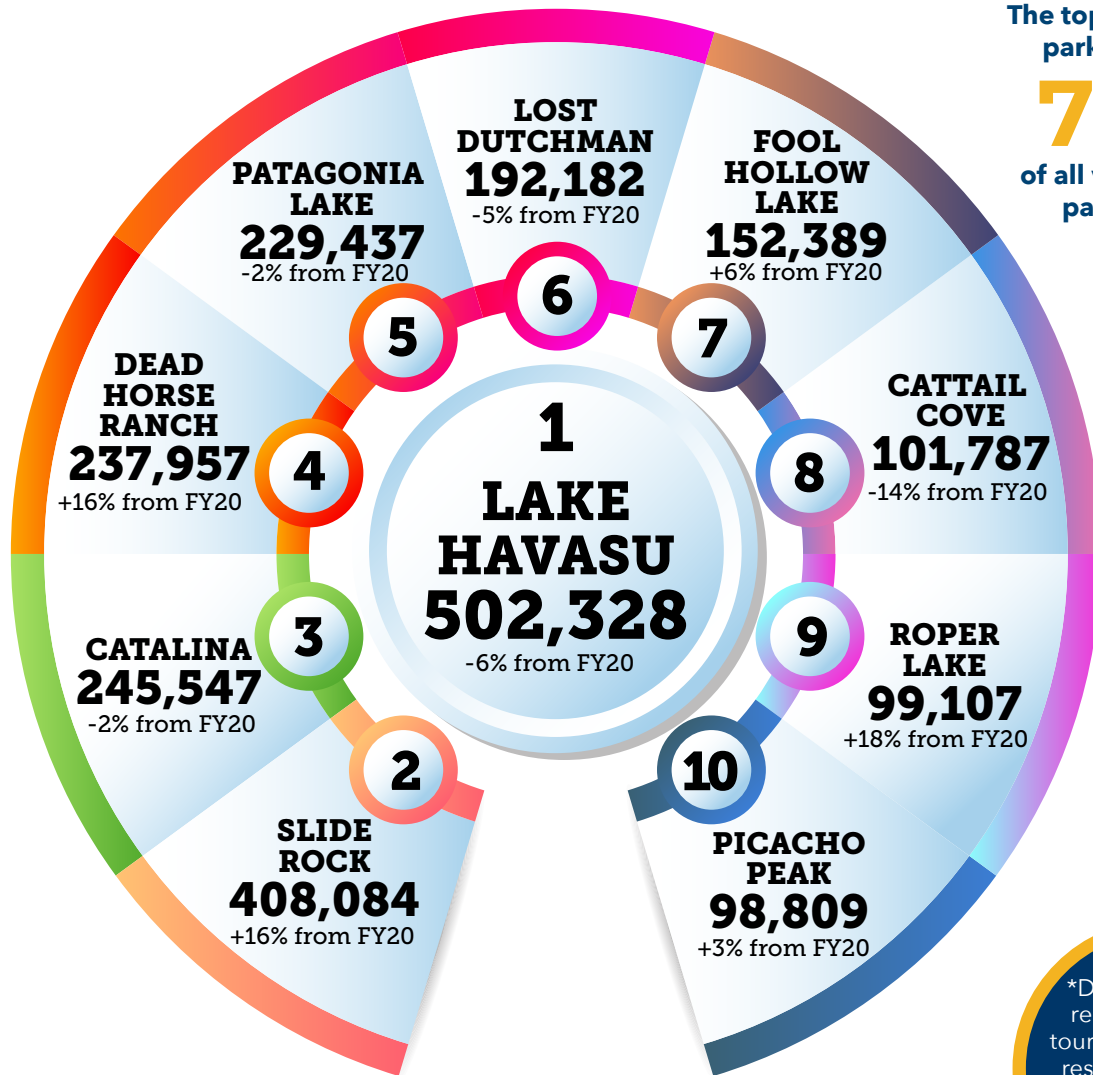
Park Visitation

The pandemic created an opportunity for new people to explore the beauty of Arizona's state parks.

The top 10 performing parks account for

76%

of all visitors to state parks in FY21.



*Due to Covid 19 restrictions, cave tours were closed or restricted for most of the fiscal year for visitor safety at Kartchner Caverns.

In FY21 - 2,972,187 people visited state parks, a .47% decrease or 13,903 fewer visitors than in FY20.

Red Rock (+9%)	95,346	River Island (-5%)	31,996
Buckskin Mountain (+13%)	90,599	Tombstone Courthouse (+24%)	27,637
Tonto Natural Bridge (+3%)	89,160	Granite Mtn. Hotshots (-4%)	24,002
Alamo Lake (+11%)	74,093	Oracle (-14%)	11,726
Lyman Lake (+16%)	72,235	Fort Verde (+4%)	8,204
*Kartchner Caverns (-65%)	68,747	Tubac Presidio (-5%)	6,161
Yuma Prison (-13%)	42,061	Yuma Colorado River (-64%)	3,692
Homolovi (+58%)	35,107	Riordan Mansion (-85%)	2,188
Jerome (-1%)	33,996	McFarland (-74%)	1,213

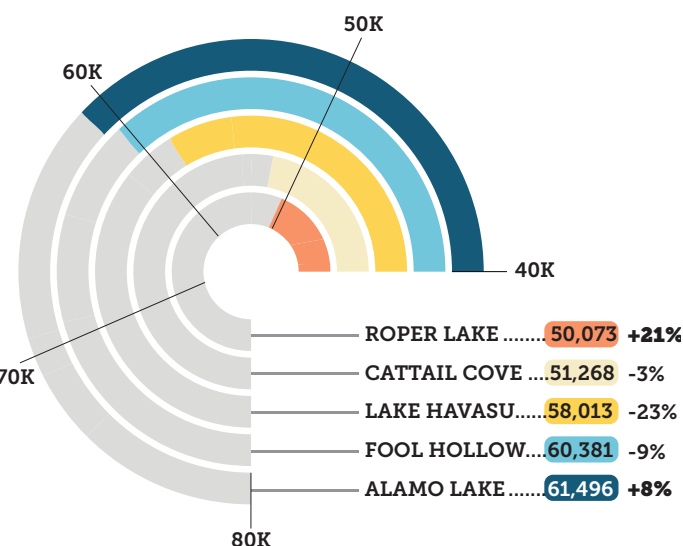
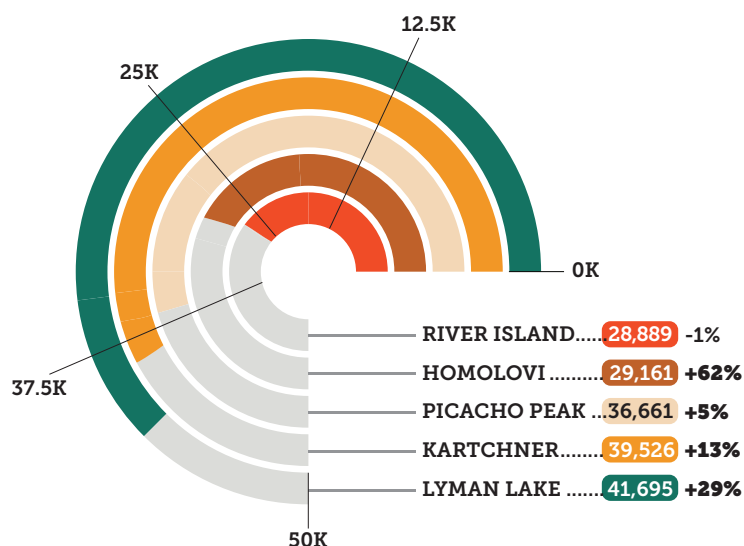
Due to Covid-19, historic parks were also partially closed or had restricted access resulting in lower visitation numbers over FY20.

Camping Update



@adventurecherry

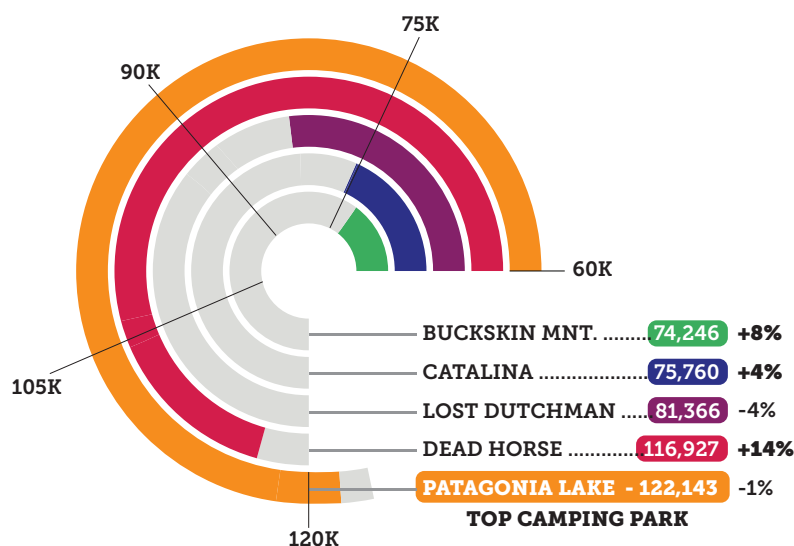
In **FY21**, **928,815** people stayed in a RV, tent, or cabin at our 15 camping parks, a nearly 4% increase. Visitors are shown on the graphs below from least to most, by park.



772,775
RV ENTHUSIASTS

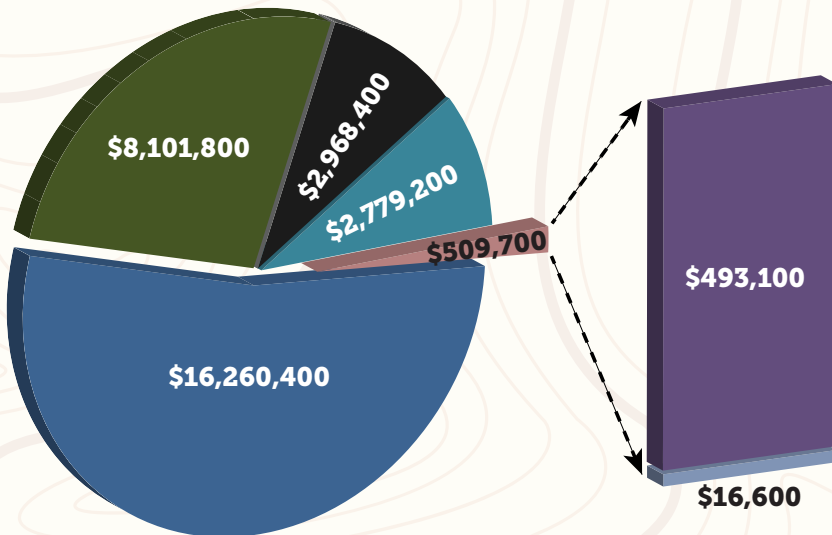
156,040
TENT CAMPERS

50,523
CABIN LOVERS



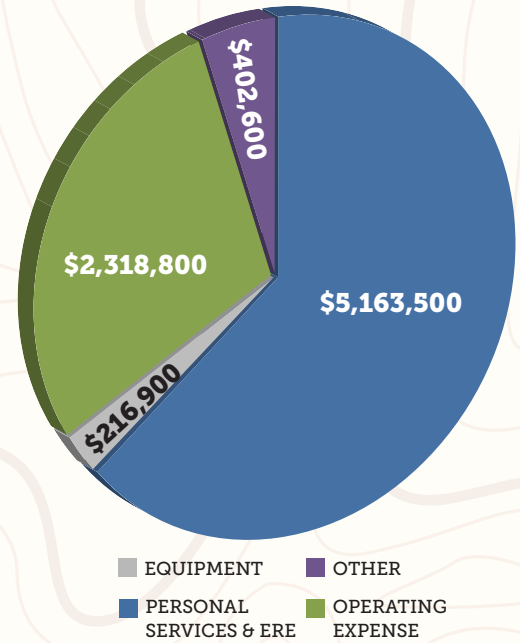
Revenue Update

FY 2021 Expenditures by Fund
\$30,619,500



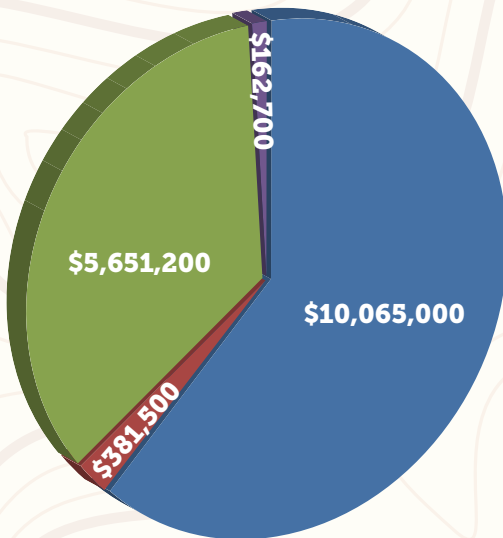
STATE PARK REVENUE FUND PARTNERSHIP FUND OTHER DONATION FUNDS
STATE LAKE IMPROVEMENT FUND FEDERAL FUNDS OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLE FUND

FY 2021 SLIF Expenditures
\$8,101,800



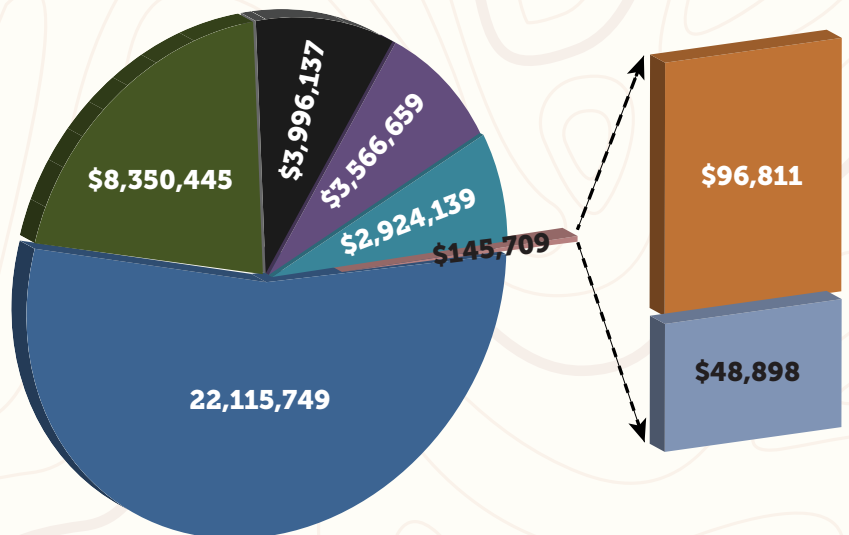
EQUIPMENT OTHER
PERSONAL SERVICES & ERE OPERATING EXPENSE

FY 2021 SPRF Expenditures
\$16,260,400



EQUIPMENT OTHER
PERSONAL SERVICES & ERE OPERATING EXPENSE

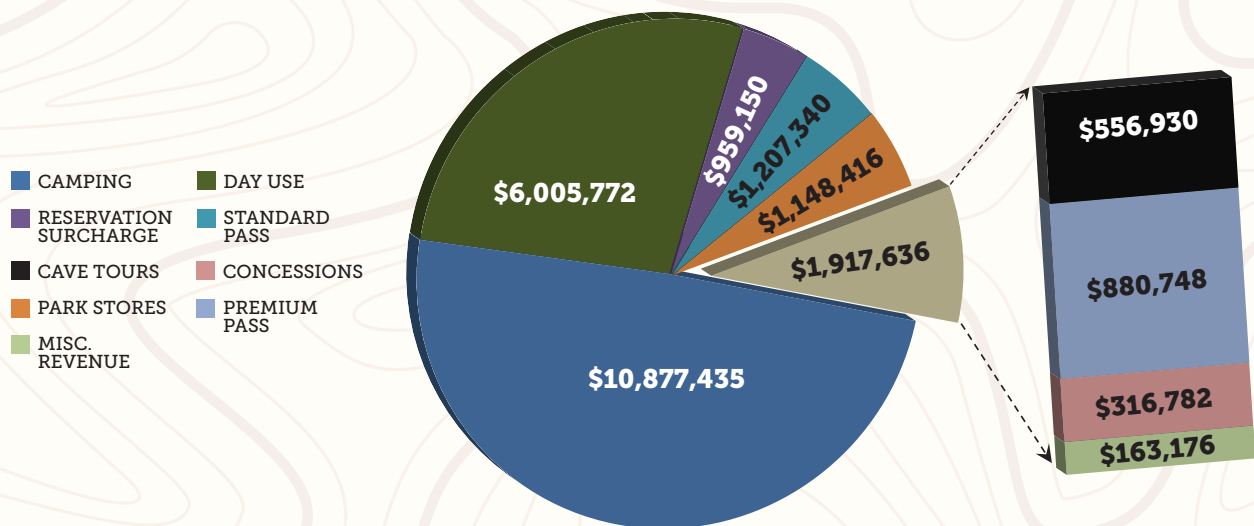
FY 2021 Revenue by Fund
\$41,098,838



STATE PARK REVENUE FUND PARTNERSHIP FUND OTHER DONATION FUNDS
STATE LAKE IMPROVEMENT FUND FEDERAL FUNDS OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLE FUND



**FY 2021
Revenue by Type
\$22,115,749**

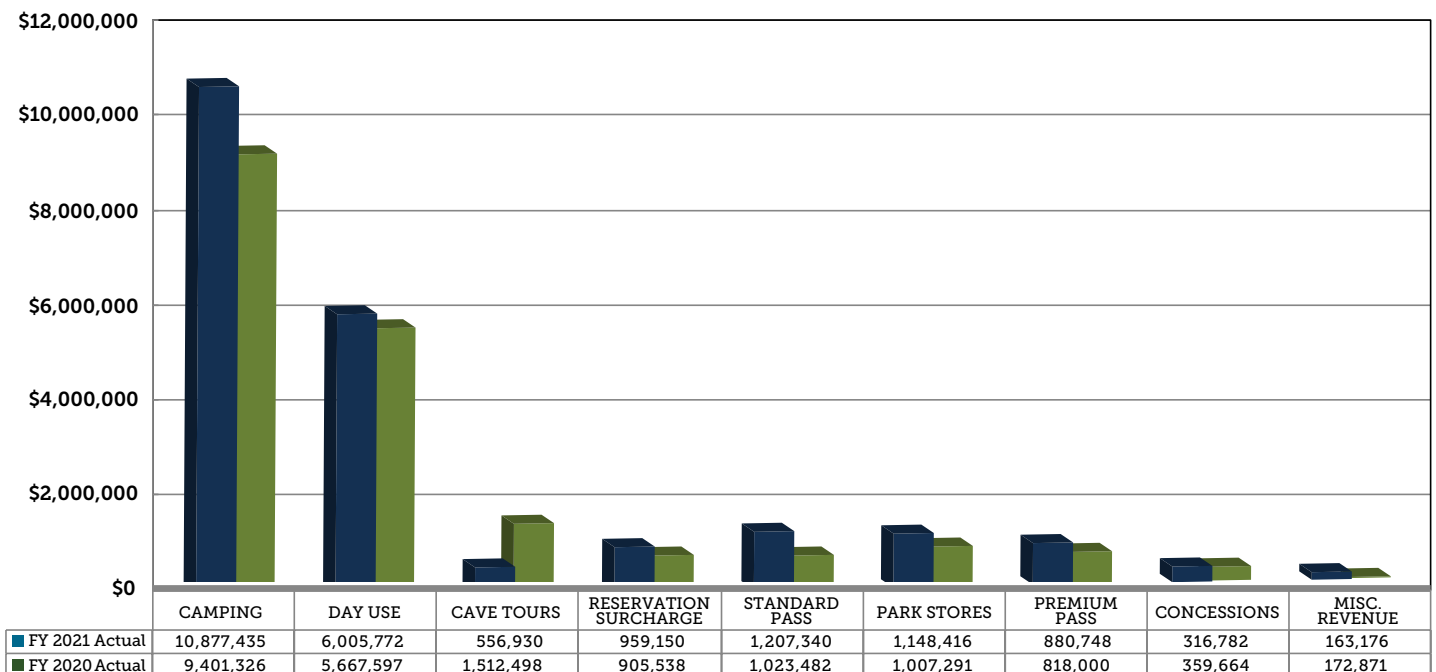


ASPT State Parks Revenue Fund Historical Revenue

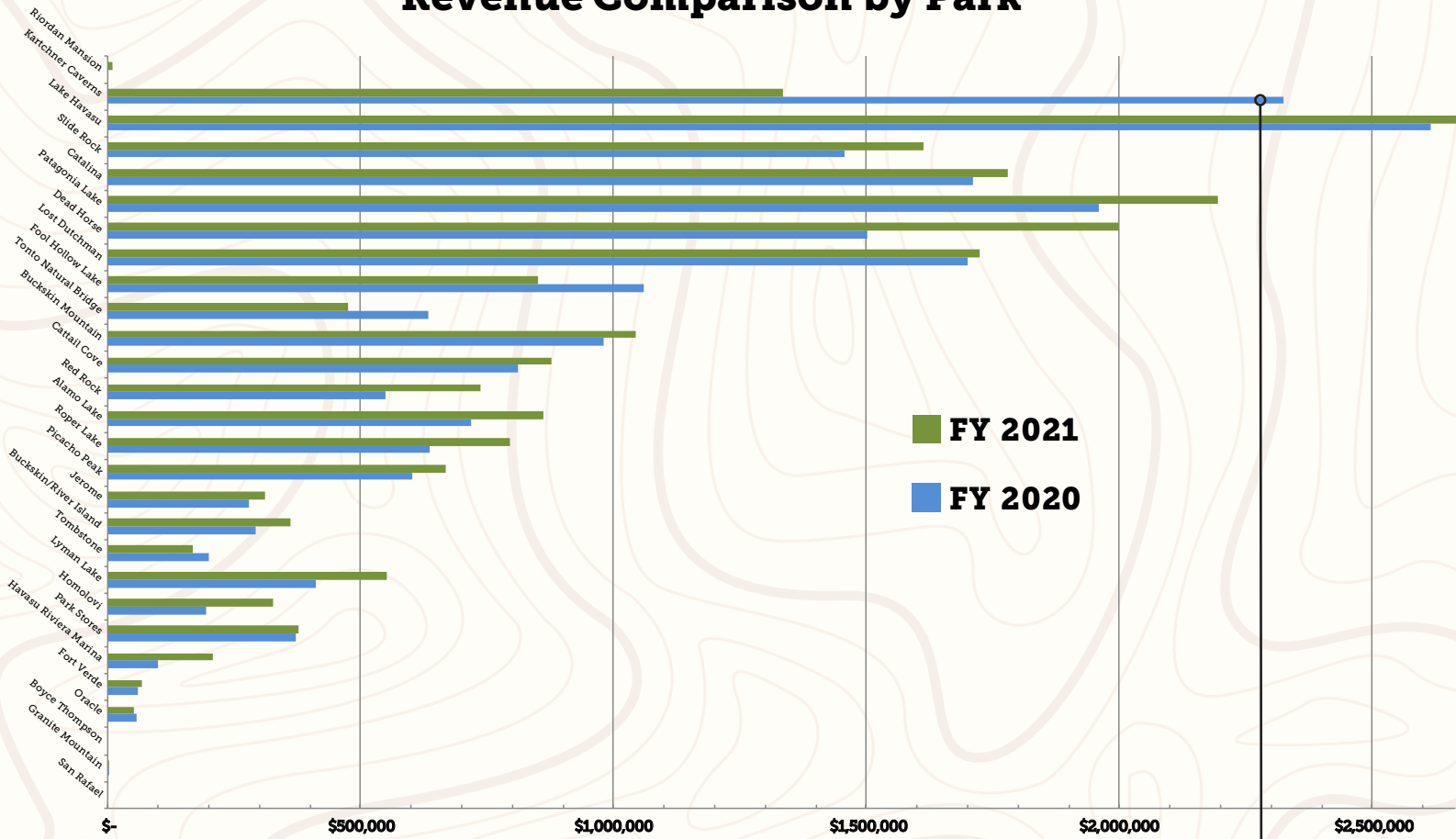
Fiscal Year	Total	Year Over Year Growth	Cumulative Growth from FY16
FY2021	\$22,115,749	5.98%	55.62%
FY2020	\$20,868,266	-0.80%	46.85%
FY2019	\$21,035,863	3.31%	48.03%
FY2018	\$20,362,173	13.76%	43.28%
FY2017	\$17,899,574	10.69%	25.96%
FY2016	\$16,170,321	13.79%	13.79%



SPRF FY 2021 / FY 2020 Revenue Comparison by Type



SPRF FY 2021 / FY 2020 Revenue Comparison by Park



Kartchner Caverns Revenue - FY21 - \$1,333,579 / FY20 - \$2,323,307

Overall revenue this year was down due to tour closures to accommodate Covid-19 restrictions.





LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION Fund



The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) was established by Congress in 1964 to fulfill a bipartisan commitment to safeguard natural areas, water resources and cultural heritage, and to provide recreation opportunities to all Americans. The fund invests earnings from offshore oil and gas leasing to help strengthen communities, preserve history and protect the national endowment of lands and waters. On August 4, 2020, the Great American Outdoors Act (GAOA) was signed into law, which authorized \$900 million annually in permanent funding for LWCF.

Town of Eager: Ramsey Park ADA Splashpad



**Awarded Amount -
\$78,216 (complete)**

This project constructed an ADA accessible splash pad at Ramsey Park that can be

used by all members of the community. The park had ADA sidewalks, picnic tables and bathrooms, but no activities for disabled people to participate in.

Coconino County: Fort Tuthill County Park Infrastructure & Visitor Amenities

Awarded Amount - \$150,620 (55%)



Grant funds will be used to build permanent, year-round public restrooms with associated infrastructure as well as trails at the Fort Tuthill Bike Park. The project will address infrastructure

needs and visitor amenities that are lacking in a park that currently has multiple visitor amenities (trails, horse arenas, ramadas, events) and acts as a trail hub connecting the City of Flagstaff with developments to the south while supporting public-private partnerships that also bring in visitors year-round.

Town of Camp Verde: Camp Verde Sports Complex

Awarded Amount - \$2,500,000



The Town of Camp Verde will develop a multi-use recreation facility which would include lighted baseball/softball fields, multi-use lighted soccer/football fields, pickleball and tennis courts, playground, picnic areas, restrooms, walking paths, parking areas, and associated needed infrastructure to develop this new facility. The facility will also connect with several miles of non-motorized

City of Chandler: Homestead North Park Development

Awarded Amount - \$750,000



The City of Chandler will use funds to develop a new 6.4-acre neighborhood park. Amenities will include lighted paths, a playground, basketball court, pickleball court, ramada, open space, and landscaping. This park is also adjacent to the Paseo Trail along the Consolidated Canal and will be used as a trail head for the trail system.

Recreational Trails Program Grants



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The Recreational Trails Program provides funds to states in order to develop and maintain recreational trails and trail-related facilities for both motorized and non-motorized recreational trail uses. These funds benefit a wide range of recreation including hiking, bicycling, in-line skating, equestrian use, cross-country skiing, snowmobiling, off-road motorcycling, all-terrain vehicle riding, four-wheel driving, or using other off-road motorized vehicles. The RTP funds come from the Federal Highway Trust Fund and represent a portion of the motor fuel excise tax collected from non-highway recreational fuel use: fuel used for off-highway recreation by snowmobiles, all-terrain vehicles, off-highway motorcycles, and off-highway light trucks.

Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest: Clifton Ranger District Trail Maintenance



Awarded Amount - \$50,000 (30%)

The Grand Enchantment Trail (GET) connects Phoenix to Albuquerque, and crosses the Clifton Ranger District, using portions of 10 of the District's trails, many of which have not been maintained in over 15 years and need heavy maintenance. Grant funding will be used to hire a trail crew to complete trail maintenance on as many miles as possible of the portions of trails that make up the GET on the District.

Verde River Institute: Verde River at Clarkdale On-River Ambassador

Awarded Amount - \$29,775 (50%)



Funds will be used to support an on-river ambassador who engages users and teaches river ethics, social distancing, boating a river safely, and the hazards of this stretch. Ambassadors will carry loaner personal floatation devices for people who need one, and will be qualified kayakers with CPR and first-aid training. The Verde River Institute has experts in river ecology, hydrology, boating safety, and minimizing riparian impacts. We will also create and post signs along the river that tell boaters where they are, what hazards lie ahead, how to navigate hazards safely, and where the next take-out is. trails.

City of Peoria: Maya Way ADA Trail

Awarded Amount - \$142,247



This project will provide for ADA connectivity at WestWing Park by constructing an 8-foot wide concrete path from Maya Way to the existing sidewalk system at the southwest corner of the park. Additional ADA connectivity will be provided by constructing a new 8-foot concrete path from the north side of Maya Way along an existing dirt trail alignment, north to a new concrete circle, then west connecting to the east side of the WestWing Park parking lot. The improvements will include clearing and grubbing, grading, concrete path, small retaining wall, decomposed granite, and restoration of landscape and irrigation system.

Verde Valley Cyclists Coalition – Red Rock Mountain Bike Patrol Expansion and Bike Bell Program

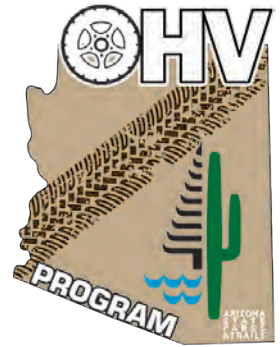


Awarded Amount - \$8,535 (100%)

Funding were used to equip the Red Rock Mountain Bike Patrol (RRMBP) volunteers and increase trail safety with uniforms, backpacks, first aid kits, windbreakers and bike bells. RRMBP Patrollers interact with all trail users, emphasizing peer education and outreach as a tool to teach land ethics, safe practices, monitor trail use and educate users regarding safety, rules and regulations. The RRMBP's primary focus is to educate, assist and inform all trail users to enhance their enjoyment of the Red Rock Ranger District of the Coconino National Forest.



OHV Grants & Trails Projects



Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Grants

The State OHV Recreation Fund, established in 1991, provides a legislatively set percentage (0.55 percent) of total license taxes on motor vehicle fuel from the Highway User Revenue Fund for OHV management. Approximately \$1.5 million is available annually through Arizona State Parks for OHV projects. In 2009, new OHV legislation was enacted to provide more regulation of OHV usage and additional funds to support law enforcement and facility development. All vehicles weighing less than 2,500 pounds and designed primarily for travel over unimproved terrain are required to display an indicia (sticker) distributed through the Department of Motor Vehicles. The \$25 cost of the sticker is added to the OHV Recreation Fund. State Parks receives 60 percent of the money in the fund for projects.

Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest: OHV Program



Award Amount - \$295,829

This project will develop a motorized trail program for the Lakeside District that includes an OHV Coordinator, temporary seasonal OHV ranger, archaeologist funding for OHV

trail NEPA, trail maintenance, and educational signage. Funding is needed to establish an effective OHV program in the short-term to coordinate with a variety of agency partners including the Arizona Game and Fish Department, Arizona State Parks, tribal, and local municipalities. In addition, work will be conducted with volunteer groups like the OHV Ambassadors and the White Mountain Open Trail Association. Coordination is needed for trail maintenance, sign installation, emergency marker installation/maintenance, providing OHV visitor contacts, education, compliance patrols, safety programs, and to implement Travel Management Rule (TMR). Once these programs are established through grant funding, the USFS will take over the management and financial responsibility.

Town of Quartzsite: Quartzsite OHV Staging Area

Award Amount - \$463,269.00 (75%)



1.6-acre OHV public staging area for the Arizona Peace Trail and BLM La Posa Travel Management

Plan. The site will be used for parking and off-loading OHVs for use on existing adjacent trail systems. This will be the first OHV staging area in Quartzsite.

Natural Restorations: OHV Trailhead Cleanups

Award Amount - \$237,080 (55%)



This project addresses the long-standing issues of trash, illegal dumping of household and construction debris, and graffiti on rocks and boulders in OHV

areas. The year 2020 saw a massive increase in the number of people recreating in OHV areas, including new users, and users who are not practicing responsible recreation. In 12 months, the Dedicated Restoration Team will complete 18 restoration projects in brand new project areas and will host three volunteer events in some of the highest use OHV areas near the Phoenix Valley. These events will provide close-to-home opportunities for youth, the OHV community, and non-OHV community members.

Arizona Game and Fish Department Region 3: Youth Helmet Distribution



Award Amount - \$4,816 (100%)

Project funds were used to establish a youth helmet distribution program. Funds purchased youth and adult helmets and eye protection that was

distributed while in the field and at education events.

Connect with Arizona State Parks



NEWSLETTER!

Want a monthly email full of what to do and see in state parks?

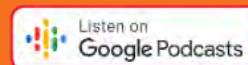
Join our newsletter to get beautiful images and ideas for creating amazing memories with friends and family.



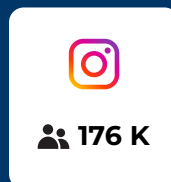
Looking for an Arizona-based podcast that focuses on outdoor recreation in this amazingly beautiful and diverse state?

Well...You found it! Join us every other week as we bring the outdoors to you in this upbeat and informative podcast!

Check out
SEASON 3!



Thanks to you, we're growing!



Share your images with us and we might share them with the world!
Use hashtag **#azstateparks**, or the name of the park you're visiting.







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