



ARIZONA HERITAGE ALLIANCE

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From the Desk of Janice Miano

Through these challenging and uncertain times, I share in everyone's concerns with what the present conditions may be causing for all of us. The spread of COVID-19 is one of the biggest challenges the global community has ever faced. Add to that this summer's brutal heat, the continuation of our extreme drought, devastating wildfires, the fallout from the economic consequences from COVID-19, as well as the most meaningful presidential election in modern times. Oh my. Please continue to stay healthy and safe.



The Alliance's Legislative Task Force, chaired by former legislator Russ Jones of Yuma, has not been on hiatus this summer. We continue to meet virtually, discuss our next steps, and develop a strategy for the next legislative session on getting the State Parks Heritage Fund portion fully-funded back to its original \$10 million each year. We are also working with an influential group of conservation advocates, the Arizona State Public Lands Coalition, to encourage the Governor and our legislators to see the importance of this funding.

We are happy to announce the Alliance won another award, the 2020 Governor's Heritage Preservation Honor Award for the **Restoration of the Arizona State Parks Heritage Fund**. This award is presented to individuals, organizations, and projects that represent outstanding achievements in preserving Arizona's historic and prehistoric cultural resources. This Award was presented to the Alliance at the Arizona Preservation in Place virtual conference held virtually in June.

And let's not forget that 2020 is the 30th Anniversary of the Arizona Heritage Fund. Since 1990, a half-billion has been invested from state lottery revenues for the purposes of preserving, protecting, and enhancing Arizona's natural and scenic environment; historic and cultural heritage; biological diversity; state, regional, and local parks and trails for outdoor recreation and open space; wildlife and wildlife habitat; endangered and threatened species; and environmental education. This has been an outstanding and unparalleled accomplishment.

Thank you to all our members, friends, and supporters who believed for the last 11 years that we could restore the State Parks Heritage Fund. We couldn't do this without your support.

If you are not a member of the Alliance, please consider joining with us and making a commitment to our mission. As I mentioned in my last message, let us also prepare for the day the COVID-19 outbreak will be behind us and we can begin working together to galvanize Arizona's economy thus providing the opportunity for every Arizonian to recover and flourish once again.

And please **VOTE!**

Alliance News & Notes

Lani Lott, Director

At the 2020 virtual Arizona historic preservation conference, "Preservation in Place," the Alliance was awarded the 2020 Governor's Heritage Preservation Honor Award for the Restoration of the State Parks Heritage Fund. Since 1982, the [Arizona Preservation Foundation](#) and [State Historic Preservation Office](#) have partnered to present the Governor's Heritage Honor Preservation Awards. The awards recognize people, organizations, and projects that represent outstanding achievements in preserving Arizona's prehistoric and historic resources. Although we couldn't be there in person to accept the award, we were extremely honored to be recognized among the other nine award winners. We want to thank everyone who helped put the Fund back in statue last year, especially our two sponsors State Senator Kate Brophy McGee and State Representative Joanne Osborne. A two-minute video was shown at the award ceremony showcasing our efforts. [Click here](#) to enjoy the video.



Studies show that outdoor recreation in trails and parks offers positive economic, health, and quality of life benefits. A recent brief produced [National Main Street](#) in collaboration with [AARP Livable Communities](#), focuses on the connections between trails, parks, and the local economy, and explores how local leaders can maximize the benefits of these connections in their COVID-19 response and management. [Click here](#) to read the brief in full.



Trail signage helps to facilitate physical connections. © J. DeWittPhoto

2020 Engagement with Parks Report Released. Each June since 2016, the [National Recreation and Park Association](#) (NRPA) Research team has surveyed 1,000 U.S. adults to better understand how people connect with parks and recreation; the results of these surveys are the basis for the annual *Engagement with Parks Report*. This report provides park and recreation professionals and advocates, policymakers, and other key stakeholders with insights about the impact that local parks and recreation facilities have on the lives of every person in our nation.



The COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated the essential value of local parks and recreation. Thanks to the tireless efforts of park and recreation professionals, most parks, trails, and other public spaces have remained open and safe during the pandemic. Even at the peak of stay-at-home edicts, parks and trails largely remained open, and frequently served as the sole recreation opportunity available to the public. **Below are the key findings of the 2020 Engagement with Parks Report.** [Click here](#) to download the full report.

- 82% of U.S. adults agree that parks and recreation is essential.
- 77% of survey respondents indicate that having a high-quality park, playground, public open space, or recreation center nearby is an important factor in deciding where they want to live.
- U.S. residents visit local park and recreation facilities more than twice a month on average.
- Three in five U.S. residents — more than 190 million people — visited a park, trail, public open space, or other recreation facility at least once during the first three months of the pandemic (mid-March through mid-June 2020).
- 72% of U.S. adults are more likely to vote for local political leaders who make park and recreation funding a priority.

SAVE THE DATE: Due to the ongoing challenges that the pandemic has imposed among groups meeting, the Alliance Annual Board Meeting will be held virtually this year on Wednesday, December 2, 2020 from 10 AM to Noon. This year we are honored to have Ty Gray, Director of the [Arizona Game and Fish Department](#), and Ryan Babel, Arizona Game and Fish Heritage Fund Administrator, as guest speakers. We will use Zoom as our virtual meeting platform. If you are interested in attending, please RSVP by email to mail@azheritage.org and we will forward you the Zoom invite several days before the meeting.



Arizona Tourism Industry Embarks on

Conservation Partnership. While Arizona tourism officials quietly celebrate the successes of 2019 amid the COVID-19 pandemic, they aren't letting some aspects of the industry fall silent. At the [Arizona Office of Tourism](#) Governor's Conference on Tourism on **July 22, 2020**, officials announced a partnership with [Leave No Trace](#), a nonprofit group readying to inform residents and visitors of multiple ways they can better explore the Grand Canyon State. "Arizona is a state of unparalleled natural beauty. It's a big reason why people live in Arizona and it's a big reason why so many want to visit the state," Dana Watts, executive director of Leave No Trace, said during the July 22 event. "Getting outside, especially in these times, renews our spirit, connects us with nature, amazing beauty, and some of the many natural wonders of the outdoors. This new partnership with Leave No Trace and the Office of Tourism is designed to protect those outdoors spaces and those outdoor experiences. It's for residents and it's for visitors alike." With Arizona boasting plenty of natural spaces — some 34 state parks, 18 national monuments, three national parks, and thousands of acres of national forest — there is a duty for people to protect those lands for future generations, officials say. [Click here](#) to view a virtual hands-on session focuses on sustainability and the outdoors.



If you hike, boat, ride, hunt, fish, watch wildlife, visit a park, or tour historic sites, then Arizona's Heritage Fund affects your life! The Arizona Heritage Alliance is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization created in 1992 to protect Arizona's Heritage Fund and its objectives. The Alliance is guided by a Board of Directors drawn from a broad base of outdoor sports, environmental conservation, and historic preservation groups that helped pass the 1990 statewide voter initiative creating the Heritage Fund. We're always looking for new voices and talent to help us achieve our mission to preserve and enhance Arizona's historic, cultural, and natural heritage. If you are interested in joining our Board or serve on a Committee, [send a note to Lani Lott, Director](#).



Alliance's Legislative Task Force Update

To continue supporting the Arizona State Parks Heritage Fund, the Arizona Heritage Alliance is creating a new publication: "30 Projects – 30 Districts – 30th Year Anniversary of the Arizona State Parks Heritage Fund." Our objective for this new communication piece is to identify 30 historic preservation, local/regional parks, and trails projects – one each in Arizona's 30 state legislative districts. The projects must be (1) significant, (2) "shovel ready," and (3) in need of funding to launch or move to the next phase of construction/ rehabilitation to complete.

The information will be used to produce an attractive communication piece to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Heritage Fund and, more importantly, provide solid funding points in preparation for the 2021 State legislative session.

As a friend, member, or partner of the Arizona Heritage Alliance, we ask that you review the list of funding and/or "shovel ready:" <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1-FLn8YjYmDvQTUrfB4jYYW4bbr69Q4gVl1AOPnCuLc/edit?usp=sharing>

We will then pull together a brief description, the estimated funding required to get the job done, a list of active partners, the estimated economic impact that the project supports (e.g., the number of jobs created, public/private investment, value to the community, etc.), high resolution photographs, and a statement or quotable quote from community leaders on the project's importance.

The following links will assist you with identifying your project and providing us with the information we are asking for here:

1. Link to a list of historic preservation projects and parks that have been identified as in need of funding and/or "shovel ready:" <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1-FLn8YjYmDvQTUrfB4jYYW4bbr69Q4gVl1AOPnCuLc/edit?usp=sharing>

2. Link to a fillable document that you can easily complete with your project and email it back to us with a couple high resolution photos: https://mcusercontent.com/19545614e305110ded5a098f6/files/d54b6cba-e673-40eb-a6258a1d7767163d/AHA_30_Projects_30_Districts.pdf

3. Link to double-check which district your project is located in and the legislature representing your district: <http://azredistricting.org/districtlocator/>

We hope to have the 30 projects identified and information gathered by mid- to late November. Thank you for completing the document and helping us with this important initiative. If you have any questions, please call Lani Lott, Executive Director, at 602-738-8381 or email at mail@azheritage.org.

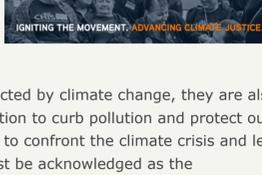
Board Member Spotlight

Pam Jones. Pam's love of history has had an influence on both her professional and personal life. ASU graduate, she and her husband lived in a downtown Phoenix historic neighborhood for almost 30 years. She became an advocate for historic preservation and has promoted that cause. While at ASU, Pam researched the history of Phoenix Sky Harbor Airport for its 50th Anniversary, after graduation she did research for a video about Page and the Glen Canyon Dam. She worked for the Arizona Preservation Foundation (APF), published the Willo neighborhood newsletter, and served as executive director for the Arizona Heritage Alliance (AHA). Additionally, she served on the boards of the Willo Neighborhood and APF. In our corner of the world, Pam has served on the Alliance Board for over 12 years. Thank you Pam for your service to the Alliance and your community!



Partner Spotlight

[Chispa Arizona](#) is a program of the League of Conservation Voters to grow Latino voices, political power, and civic engagement for a cleaner future in Arizona. Chispa has been supportive of the Arizona Heritage Fund and supported the Alliance in 2019 with our efforts to reinstate the State Parks Heritage Fund. Chispa Arizona envisions an inclusive and reflective democracy that prioritizes communities' rights to clean air and water, healthy neighborhoods, and a safe climate for generations to come. While Latinos are among the worst impacted by climate change, they are also some of the most committed to supporting strong government action to curb pollution and protect our environment. To create the momentum and movement necessary to confront the climate crisis and lead on conservation, communities must be at the table. And they must be acknowledged as the environmental leaders we are. Chispa Arizona is organizing in communities, increasing voter participation, pushing back on polluters, and holding elected officials accountable in-between election days. They cultivate the political power that is key to advocating for ambitious and just conservation solutions Arizona.



Historic Preservation, Parks, and Trails in the News

[Clarkdale allocates more than \\$100,000 for various projects](#)

[ASU Now: How built environments around us may affect our health](#)

[Town of Payson seeks grant from Land and Water Conservation Fund for splash pad](#)

Upcoming Events

Arizona Heritage Alliance Annual VIRTUAL Board Meeting, Wednesday, December 2, 2020, 10 a.m. to Noon. Please RSVP by email to mail@azheritage.org

2021 VIRTUAL Environmental Day at the Capitol, Wednesday, February 3, 2021, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. More details to follow.

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The Arizona Heritage Alliance is a 501-C-3 non-profit organization with the mission to preserve and enhance Arizona's historic, cultural, and natural heritage. To accomplish our mission, we actively:

- Protect the integrity and voter intent of the Arizona Heritage Fund
- Pursue sustainable and dedicated funding sources for Arizona's historic, cultural, and natural initiatives, programs, and activities
- Educate Arizonans on the benefits of our state's wildlife, open space, parks, and historic and natural resources
- Monitor state legislative and agency activity

