



ARIZONA HERITAGE ALLIANCE

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Action Alert!

The [National Trust for Historic Preservation](#) has joined with the Pew Charitable Trusts on their "Restore America's Parks" campaign to seek a reliable, dedicated federal funding source to address the deferred maintenance backlog at the [National Park System](#). Inconsistent public funding has resulted in an infrastructure repair backlog estimated to be about \$12 billion, and many of the National Park Service's most significant historic sites are at risk of falling into disrepair. Such funding will ensure



that we preserve historic buildings and sites, maintain buildings and infrastructure in safe condition, and that parks remain open and accessible so that the public can continue to learn from and experience the stories that tell our nation's history. [Read more here.](#)

Please consider [adding your name or organization's name to a national sign-on letter](#) that encourages dedicated funding to repair our national parks. A new National Park Service [report on visitor spending](#) shows that 12,007,549 Arizona visits meant \$995.9 million spent in gateway communities and supported 15,648 jobs in 2016. Interesting, the backlog of repairs as reported by the National Park Service is just over \$663.5 million in the state and includes protecting significant historic and cultural resources. Note: this letter closes on Friday May 19. If you have questions, reach out to [Renee Kuhlman](#) at the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Thank you.

Legislative Update

According to Janice Miano, Advocacy Chair for the Arizona Heritage Alliance, an amendment to House Bill 2369 retains the Arizona State Parks Board which for 60 years has provided citizen feedback and oversight to Arizona State Parks. HB2369 passed out of the House of Representatives, but the 1,500-plus advocate letters and phone calls were noticed by State



Senators. At the Government Senate Committee, an amendment removed the State Parks Board from the bill. The effort to keep the State Parks Board was spearheaded by Senator Kate Brophy McGee. It then became a bipartisan effort to keep citizen involvement as part of our State Parks system. As amended, HB2369 keeps the State Parks Board in place. Senate leadership pushed this and Governor Ducey was not opposed to this amendment. The amended bill now sits on the Governor's desk awaiting his signature. Sine die.

Here are updates of several other bills that the Arizona Heritage Alliance monitored during this past legislative session:

- SB1167 – archeology advisory commission; continuation (Fann and Campbell). A continuation for three years for the Governor's Archeology

Advisory Commission (GAAC) which advises to SHPO. Status: Governor signed the bill on 3/24/17.

- SB1168 – Arizona outdoor recreation commission; continuation (Fann and Campbell). A continuation for three years for the Arizona Outdoor Recreation Coordinating Commission (AORCC) which is responsible for reviewing expenditures of grants from the Recreational Trails Program, Off-Highway Vehicle Program, and Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund. Status: Governor signed the bill on 3/31/17.
- SB1077 – State parks board; director; appointment (Farley). Amending statute to have the State Parks Board appoint the Arizona State Parks Director instead of the Governor. Status: Bill was assigned to Senate Natural Resources Committee, but died in committee.
- SB1089 – Lottery funding; LTAF; restoration (Farley, Fann, and Clodfelter). Amending statute to restore the Arizona State Parks Heritage Fund as previous. Status: Bill was assigned to Senate Appropriations, but died in committee.

Alliance News & Notes

Lani Lott, Director

The Arizona Heritage Alliance is celebrating its 25th Anniversary. As part of this celebration, the Alliance will sponsor the [Arizona Historic Preservation Conference](#),

June 14-16, in Oro Valley. As part of our sponsorship, the Alliance will present a session on Thursday, June 15 at 2:50 PM entitled "Arizona Heritage Alliance 25th Anniversary Showcase – What Was, What Is, and What's Next." The presentation will include several past Arizona Heritage Fund Preservation Grant recipients who will

share several of their projects funded with a Heritage Fund grant including what the project looked like before renovation, what it looks like today, and what impact the project has had in their community. In addition representatives from the [Game and Fish Heritage Fund Grant](#) program will discuss their current wildlife and natural heritage projects as well as the Arizona Heritage Alliance President Beth Woodin will share her future vision for the Alliance. Join the



Arizona Heritage Alliance as we celebrate 25 years preserving and enhancing Arizona's historic, cultural, and natural heritage.

[The National Recreation and Park Association](#) (NRPA) announced the top four candidates for the Gold Medal Award, including [Arizona State Parks and Trails](#) as a finalist. "Arizona State Parks and Trails exemplifies the best Arizona has to offer," said Governor Ducey. "The beauty of Arizona combined with forward thinking and innovative management have resulted in a prosperous and healthy park system. We welcome everyone to experience the adventure our stunning parks

offer." The [Gold Medal Award](#) honors state park systems throughout the United States that demonstrate excellence in long-range planning, resource management and innovative approaches to delivering superb park and recreation services with fiscally sound business practices. The other 2017 "final four" candidates include Tennessee State Parks; Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission; and Wyoming State Parks, Historic Sites, and Trails. The winner will be announced on September 28, 2017.



Arizona is rich in wildlife diversity, ranking among the top five states in the nation when it comes to the total number of native bird, reptile, and mammal species - more than 800. The [Arizona Game and Fish Department](#) provides information on everything from wildlife viewing opportunities and tips for living with wildlife, to how the Department conducts wildlife research and manages game, nongame, and endangered wildlife. One of their programs is the [Community Fishing Program](#). There are 39 city park lakes from 19 cities across the state participating in the program. Detailed maps and park-specific information on all Community Fishing waters are listed in the Community Fishing Guidebook (available here as a [PDF](#)). Distinctive Program signs are posted at key locations at all participating waters which highlight the fishing license requirements and special bag limit regulations. The program's motto is "If people can't get to the fish, we'll bring the fish to the people."



Central Arizona Conservation Alliance (CAZCA) representatives Laural Arndt (Project Manager, Sun Corridor Legacy Program, Sonoran Institute) and Stacie Beute (Conservation Alliance Program Lead, Desert Botanical Garden) met with Arizona Heritage Alliance Board members Janice Miano and Jim McPherson and Executive Director Lani Lott



to share the CAZCA's "Open Space Strategy." CAZCA is a program of the Desert Botanical Garden, and is comprised of more than 50 partnering organizations. CAZCA is a collaborative to develop, align, and elevate efforts to conserve and enhance open space for ecological, economic, and social benefits to our region. In response to the expected growth of Maricopa County over the next 25 years and the pressure this will put on conserving open space, CAZCA convened a complex and lengthy process to develop a Regional Open Space Strategy to put forward smart, comprehensive, and implementable strategies for open space conservation in Maricopa County. [Click here](#) to learn more about CAZCA and the "Regional Open Strategy."

Board Member Spotlight

Kent A. Taylor, AHA Newest Board Member

The Arizona Heritage Alliance is excited to introduce Kent Taylor as the newest member to the Board who is truly going to be an asset to our organization. Kent serves as Pinal County's Director of Open Space and Trails, a new department and position formed in July 2013. In this role, Kent is responsible for guiding the implementation of the Pinal County Open



Space and Trails Master Plan as well as the management and oversight of the existing park and regional trail inventory. Additionally, Kent administers the Pinal County Performance Management initiative, including organizational strategic planning, the development of departmental Strategic Business Plans and the collection and reporting of performance measurement information.

Prior to this position, Kent served as the Interim Director of the Parks, Recreation, and Fairgrounds Department and as Senior Planner for Parks, Trails, and Open Space. Prior to joining Pinal County in 2006, Kent was a small business owner for 16 years.

Kent's volunteer involvement includes: current member, Arizona Outdoor Coordinating Commission; past Chair of the City of Casa Grande Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission; past President, Treasurer, and Board Member of the Arizona Trail Association; and past Chair of the Arizona State Committee on Trails (ASCOT) which is an advisory committee to the Arizona State Parks Board. Kent also served for five years on the City of Casa Grande Planning and Zoning Commission.

Kent earned a MPA from Troy University and a BS and MS degree from Northern Arizona University. Kent and his wife of 35 years, Victoria, live in Casa Grande and have three children and two grandchildren.

Partner Spotlight

Arizona League of Cities and Towns

Our partner spotlight for this quarter is the [Arizona League of Cities and Towns](#). The aim of the League is to promote local self-government, municipal independence, and provide professional and high quality



assistance to the municipal governments in the State of Arizona. The League, a voluntary membership organization of the incorporated municipalities in Arizona, exists to provide vital services and tools to all its members, focusing principally on representing the interests of cities and towns before the legislature, and secondarily on providing technical and legal assistance, coordinating shared services and producing high quality conference and educational events.

Upcoming Events!

- [Arizona Historic Preservation Conference](#), June 14-16, Hilton El Conquistador Golf & Tennis Resort, Oro Valley
- [Desert Discovery Center 2nd Annual Nature Film Festival](#), June 21, Harkins Theater Shea 14, Scottsdale
- [Arizona Rural Policy Forum](#), August 9-11, Safford & Thatcher

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The Arizona Heritage Alliance is a 501-C-3 non-profit 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 Game & Fish 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 cultural resources
- Monitor state legislative and agency activity



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