Quarterly updates, news, and events from the Arizona Heritage Alliance

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## ARIZONA HERITAGE ALLIANCE

P.O. Box 16282, Phoenix, AZ 85011 602-528-7500 mail@azheritage.org

# From the Desk of Jim McPherson, President, Arizona Heritage Alliance

Dear Members, Friends, and Supporters of the Arizona Heritage Alliance,

Together, over the past decade, the Arizona Heritage Alliance has helped return the Arizona State Parks Heritage Fund to its rightful place to benefit Arizona. With the support of thousands of community allies and dozens of legislative champions, the State Parks Heritage Fund was reinstated into statute in 2019. Over

the past three fiscal years, millions of dollars have been appropriated in the following categories:

- 50% for local, regional, and state parks
- 30% for local, regional, and state historic preservation
- 10% for local, regional, and state non-motorized trails
- 10% for outdoor/environmental education



#### **Looking Ahead: Overcoming Setbacks and Continuing the Fight**

We were disappointed by the narrow defeat of Senate Concurrent Resolution 1038 in March of this year. Despite positive bipartisan support in legislative committees in both the State Senate and the State House of Representatives, the resolution was defeated by one vote in the full State Senate due to political considerations outside our control. Nonetheless, we remain committed to securing funding for the State Parks Heritage Fund in fiscal year 2025. Please look for the call to action further down in this newsletter to see how you can help us.

We are grateful to elected officials in our cities, towns, counties, and tribal areas, stakeholder partners, and friends from all corners of Arizona for the significant progress made over the past couple of years.

Special thanks to our state legislative champions who have sponsored or co-sponsored bills since 2019: Alston, Andrade, Blackman, Bowers, Bowie, Boyer, Bradley, Brophy McGee, Carbone, Carter, Chávez, Contreras, Cook, Dalessandro, De Los Santos, Diaz, Dunn, Engel, Gabaldon, Gonzales, Hatathlie, A. Hernandez, M. Hernandez, Jermaine, Kerr, Lieberman, Longdon, Marsh, Mathis, Mendez, Navarrete, Nutt, Osborne, Otondo, Peshlakai, Pratt, Quezada, Rios, Salman, Shope, Stahl Hamilton, Steele, Sun, Teller, Terán, Travers, and Tsosie.

The Arizona Heritage Alliance continues to raise awareness of the Arizona Heritage Fund, encompassing both the State Parks Heritage Fund and the Arizona Game & Fish Heritage Fund. We will keep you informed about Arizona's natural, cultural, and historic resources through our website, social media channels, and newsletters. We encourage you to engage with the information we share for the benefit of your community.

#### **Call to Action**

We have proven that we can achieve our goals, and we look forward to accomplishing even more. However, we need your help, especially now, as we work to resolve the significant state budget shortfall. We cannot afford to lose ground without an appropriation in the upcoming fiscal year and eventually full funding via the Arizona Lottery, the original funding source of the State Parks Heritage Fund before the Great Recession.

All gifts, large or small, will make a significant difference in supporting the Arizona Heritage Alliance's mission and ensuring the State Parks Heritage Fund is fully restored. Your membership can be mailed directly to the Arizona Heritage Alliance, P.O. Box 16282, Phoenix, AZ 85011, online at azheritage.org, or if needed, we can send an invoice. Thank you for your past generosity and assistance. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions, comments, or ideas at mail@azheritage.org or 602-528-7500.

Thank you for your continued support.mail@azheritage.org\_

Warm regards,

Jim McPherson Board President, Arizona Heritage Alliance

# Congratulations to the 2023/2024 The Arizona State Parks Heritage Fund Grant Awardees

On June 30, 2023, Arizona Governor Katie Hobbs signed the state budget for Fiscal Year 2023/2024, including \$6 million to fund the Arizona State Parks Heritage Fund. Over the 10 months, the Arizona State Parks staff has been working hard on awarding the grant funds to support projects across the state. As part of the Alliance's ongoing support for the State Parks Heritage Fund, a huge congratulations to the FY 2023-2024 grant awardees from all across our state! Here is a list by catergory of the FY23/24 communities and their projects. A full list with additional details and a photo of each project can be downloaded at azheritage.org

#### **Local and Regional Parks**

- City of Tucson 100 Acre Wood Mountain Bike Park
- City of Avondale DeConcini Park
- Town of Duncan Veteran & Centennial Park
- Ohono O'odham Wa:k Community Park
- Town of Snowflake Bike and Trails Park
- Town of Pima Sports Complex Phase 1

#### **Historic Preservation**

- Arizona Copper Art Museum Main Street
- Mesa Historical Society Lehi Auditorium
- City of Phoenix Sergeant-Oldaker House
- Rialto Theatre Foundation Rialto Theatre
- Archaeology Southwest Romero Site
- St. Philip's Preservation and Endowment Foundation
  - St. Philip's In the Hills Historic Church

#### **Non-Motorized Trails**

- City of sierra Vista Garden Wash Phase III
- Prescott Mountain Bike Alliance Bean Peaks
- Hawes Trail Alliance Red Mountain Park
- Town of Snowflake Cottonwood Wash Trail

#### **Outdoor/Environmental Education**

- Flagstaff Unified School District Camp Colton
- Flagstaff Trails Initiative Kiosk Trailhead
- Grand Canyon Youth Exploring Arizona Watersheds
- Verde Valley Cyclists Coalition Bike Bell Distribution
- Maricopa Trail and Park Foundation Trail Safety
- Bisbee Science Exploration & Research Center Sky Island STEAM Express Mobile Lab
- Arizona Wildlife Federation Education Program



# 2023-24 Heritage ARIZONA Fund Grant Awardees

On June 30, 2023 Azizona Governor Katle Hobbs signed the state budget for Fiscal Year 2024, including S6 million to fund the Azizona State Parks Heritage Fund. Through a matching grant process developed by the Azizona State Parks Board in consultation with staff of Azizona State Parks & Drails and the State Historic Prevarsation Office monies in the State Parks Heritage Fund have been (and continue to bo) allocated as follows: ▶ 50% (§3 million) on local, regional, and state parks for undoor recreation and open space development, restoration, or renovation, № 50% (§3 million) on local, regional, and state historic preservation projects, № 10% (§600,000) on local, regional and state non-motivated trails, and № 10% (§600,000) on clodor and environmental electation

## Outdoor Environmental Ed Category









Sponsor: Verde Valley Cyclists District:1 Project: Bike Bell Distribution HF Grant: \$21,756 Match: \$2,568.60 Project Total: \$24,324.60 Sponsor: City of Flagstaff District: 6,7 Project Title: Outdoor Envi



Foundation
District:
Project Title: Markopa Trail Safety
And Environmental Education



Sponsor: Bubee Science Exploration & Research Center
Districts 21
Districts 21
Districts 21
Districts 21
Districts 21
Districts 210
Districts



Sponsor: Arizona Wildlife Federation District Statewide Project Title: Arizona Wildlife Federation Education Program HF Grant: \$119,746.20 Match: \$133,042. Project Total: \$133,048

#### Non-Motorized Trails Category



Match: \$13,350 Project Total: \$133,350



District: 1 Project Title: Bean Peaks Gravity Flow System HF Grant: \$120,000 Match: \$72,441 Project Total: \$192,441



sor: Hawes Trail Alliance District: Project Title: Red Mountain Park Lot Improvements HF Grant \$120,000 Match: \$40,000 Project Total: \$160,000



sor: Town of Snowflak

#### Local, Regional & State Parks Category



Sponsor: City of Tucson District: Project Title: 100-Acre Wood Mountain Bike Park Development HF Grant: \$170,287 Match: \$170,287 Project Total: \$340,574

sor: Town of Duncan



Sponsor: City of Avoncaie District: 22 Project Title: DeConcini Pari HF Grant: \$500,000 Match: \$1,463,744.10 Project Total: \$1,963,744.10 :2 itle: DeConcini Park Developi



Sponsor: Town of Duncan District: 6 Project Title: Veteran & Centennial Park



District: Project Title: Wask Community Park HF Grant: \$500,000 Match: \$1,500,000 Project Total: \$2,000,000



District: 7 Project: Bike and Trails Park Land Purchas HF Grant: \$464,519 Match: \$464,519 Project Total: \$929,038



Sponsor: Town or Frind District: 19 Project Title: Sports Complex Phase I HF Grant: \$500,000 Match: \$500,000 Project Total: \$1,000,000 nsor: Town of Pima

#### Historic Preservation Category





Sponsor: 1310-0- ---District: 8,10,15 Project Title: Renovation of the Historic Lehi ditorium ? Grant: \$104,966 atch: \$70,400 oject Total: \$175,366



sor: City of Dhoeniy



sor: Rialto Theatre Fo 



Sponsor: Archaeology Southwest District: Statewide Project Title: Romero Site Interpret HF Grant: \$40,136 Match: \$38,488 Project Total: \$78,584



Sponsor: St. Philip's Pres District:
Project Title: St. Philip's In the Hills Historic
Church Preservation

## **Alliance News & Notes**

Lani Lott, Director

Board Member and Past President, Janice Miano honored at Grand Opening of the New State Park "Rockin' River State Park" On behalf of the entire Alliance Board of Directors', we are extremely excited to share the news of the creation of the Miano Trailhead at the new Arizona State

Parks & Trails "Rockin' River State Park!" At the request of Arizona Heritage Alliance board member, Sam Campana, the Miano Trailhead was officially celebrated at the grand opening of Arizona's newest state park held on Thursday, February 8, 2024. Janice was honored by Governor Katie Hobbs during the grand opening. Janice Miano, our fellow board member and past board president, has been a shining star for so many years advocating wholeheartedly and tirelessly for the Arizona State Parks Heritage Fund specifically and our great state's natural, cultural, and historic resources overall. We could not do what we do without our Janice! Thank you Arizona State Parks for recognizing her.

The 2024 Preserve AZ Conference - "Planning for the Past, Preserving the Future to be held June 25 - June 27, 2024 in Prescott, AZ. The 2024 Preserve AZ Conference will boast two full days of programming geared to professionals, with continuing education credits when available, in the fields of historic preservation, archaeology, cultural resources management, architecture, and planning. The event is tailored for members of the public who are involved in historic preservation and archaeology through volunteer activities and non-profit or state and local board and commission membership. Programming is designed to attract elected leadership and staff of Arizona's 22 Native American tribes, who have a special relationship to Arizona's





historic resources. The two days of general programming are supplemented by tours, activities, and pre-conference workshops. For more information and to register, <u>click here</u>

Trust for Public Land helps secure land for Arizona's newest state park. Trust for Public Land, in

partnership with Arizona State Parks (ASPT), Yavapai County, The Nature Conservancy in Arizona, and Town of Chino Valley, AZ, announced the protection of 734 acres that is now owned by ASPT. A new state park will not only connect folks to the outdoors but will protect Sullivan Lake at the start of the Verde River, enable the extension of the Peavine National Recreation Trail from Prescott to the river, and preserve history of great importance to Arizona. Arizona State Parks and Trails plans to develop its newest park on the newly acquired



land. Following a comprehensive planning process, ASPT will be able to offer additional outdoor recreation opportunities in north-central Arizona.

#### Arizona State Parks & Trails - Trails Plan 2025 SURVEY

Trails are the gateway to adventure and we can't imagine Arizona without them! Maintained trails enrich our communities, make outdoor recreation more accessible, and protect our landscape and wildlife habitat. Are you an advocate for our trails? Take this survey to help shape the state's 2025 Trails Plan

and be entered to win awesome Arizona experiences and prizes just for participating: <a href="mailto:surveyentrance.com/TrailsPublic4">surveyentrance.com/TrailsPublic4</a>.

## The Historic Downtown Glendale Merchants Association is

celebrating Glendale's known
history with peacocks with an
interactive Peacock Trail. It all
started when Lottie Sands Smith —
sister of Manistee Ranch owner Louis
Sands — purchased the eastern half of
the original Sahuaro Ranch in 1927.
Smith and her husband, Richard W.
Smith, attended the Chicago World's
Fair in 1933, where she purchased and
brought back two peahens and a
peacock to the ranch. Descendants of
those birds still roam the park
today. According to the association,





the idea to create the trail and provide residents with an enjoyable learning experience came from longtime Glendale resident Davita Solter. The trail takes community members on a walking tour through <a href="Historic Downtown Glendale">Historic Sahuaro Ranch</a> as they search for the hidden metal peacocks. Participants will be given a Peacock Trail Passport that lists the businesses and attractions where the peacocks are located and where they can collect the eight unique stamps.

#### Congratulations to the Arizona State Parks and Trails for receiving the prestigious Arizona

Forward Environmental Excellence Award for its popular Arizona Family Campout Program. The Arizona Family Campout Program offers families of all ages the chance to enjoy outdoor activities during a weekend camping experience – with all equipment provided. The program teaches families the basics of tent camping, and provides educational presentations on outdoor subjects like geology, geography, birding, astronomy, and more.

Arizona State Parks and Trails provides the equipment for the activities and tent camping in each park. Events also include a service project to teach conservation and



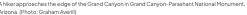
preservation to new outdoor recreationists. In addition to the Arizona Family Campout Program, two other Arizona State Parks and Trails nominations made it to the finals, including the Kids on the Colorado program at <a href="Lake Havasu State Park">Lake Havasu State Park</a> and the viewing platform at <a href="Tonto Natural Bridge State">Tonto Natural Bridge State</a> <a href="Park">Park</a> in Payson.

See Wildlife Species the Way they're Meant to be Seen—in the Wild Program presented by the Arizona Game and Fish Department. The Wildlife Viewing Program is committed to achieving wildlife conservation by engaging the public in activities and with cams that increase awareness of and appreciation for wildlife garnering public support for the Department's unique role in wildlife management. These practices ensure the continued existence of Arizona's diverse wildlife and habitats by promoting sustainable viewing practices.

#### Outside Magazine ranks Arizona as the "Most Adventurous State

in the West" The article states that "Nevada as more public land and New Mexico has more ski areas, but Arizona took the lead with its bevy of hiking and mountain-biking trails and the iconic status of the public land inside this state. We







mean, Grand Canyon National Park. Hard as it is to pull permits, rafting through it tops many Americans' once-in-a-lifetime trips to take. Hiking around the Grand Canyon is up there, too. Glen Canyon National Recreation Area and Lake Mead Recreation Area offer massive lakes and desert gorges, while a mass of national monuments protect historical and cultural artifacts and archaeological sites sacred to Native Peoples. Meanwhile, there are more than 4.5 million acres of wilderness and more than 13,000 established climbing routes. I've mountain biked desert flow in the suburbs of Scottsdale and pedaled massive gravel miles near the southern border. The following factors by the numbers really tell the story of why Arizona is was ranked by the most "adventurous" state but we already knew this - right!

- 40,124,589 acres of public land
- 3 national parks
- 34 state parks
- 7,396 miles of hiking trails
- 13,728 miles of mountain-bike trails
- 0 miles of coastline
- 90,373 miles of river
- 3 ski areas

It is with sadness that one of our Board Members, Walter W. "Bill" Meek, passed away in

March this year. Bill was a long-time civic activist and public relations expert, and in 1969 was the first Arizona Press Club "Newsman of the Year" recognizing his excellence in journalism at The Arizona Republic. His specialties were political, environmental and health care issues.

Bill was born March 28, 1935 in St. Louis, MO, to Schuster and Elinor Meek and graduated from Lafayette College in Easton, PA. He reported for the Bergen (NJ) Evening Record before coming to Ft. Huachuca with the US Army in 1959. While in southern Arizona he managed a mariachi band made up of members of the Yaqui Native American tribe, who he believed had perfect pitch. After being discharged in 1961, he started a career with the Republic where he won multiple awards for investigative journalism. In 1966-67, he was a Nieman Fellow at Harvard University. He and Barbara, also an AZ Republic Reporter, married in 1969.



After serving as Special Assistant to Mayor John Driggs in 1970-72, he moved to Michigan as Lansing Bureau Chief for the Detroit Free Press. They returned to Phoenix in 1975 where he was Communications Director for Arizona Public Service Co., then started several public relations firms eventually serving as president of the Arizona Utility Investors Association, representing the interests of utility shareholders at the Corporation Commission and the Legislature. He shepherded several City bond elections and managed the campaign to authorize the Arizona Lottery. He also was president and chairman of the board of the Valley Forward Association. He retired from AUIA in 2009 and became the volunteer president of the Arizona State Parks Foundation.

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.



# The Arizona Game and Fish Heritage Partnership Program

The Arizona Game and Fish Heritage Partnership Program (formerly known as the AGFD Heritage

Fund) has been redesigned to provide opportunities to collaborate with eligible entities to fund projects that provide conservation and recreational benefits. Eligible entities include governmental agencies, Indian tribes, and non-governmental organizations (must meet the IRS definition of a 501c3).

- Concept proposals may be submitted at any time throughout the year and all funds are awarded externally.
- All projects must provide a conservation benefit and be eligible for Heritage funding, <u>17-296 – Definitions</u>
- Project must be completed within one (1) year, following the state fiscal year July 1 – June 30 of the following year.
   Projects spanning up to two (2) years may be considered based on biological windows and the scope of work.
- Project funding is provided on a reimbursement basis.



Each year the Arizona Game and Fish Commission approves a set amount of funding per category. Funding amounts provided may not exceed the amount approved by the Commission.

- Identification, Inventory, Acquisition, Protection and Management of Sensitive Habitat (IIAPM) IIAPM is for projects that preserve and enhance Arizona's natural biological diversity is budgeted \$200,000 per fiscal year.
- Public Access Public Access is for projects that increase or maintain public access for

recreational use and is budgeted \$50,000 per fiscal year.

• Urban Wildlife and Urban Wildlife Habitat (URBAN) – Urban is for projects that conserve, enhance and establish wildlife habitats and populations in harmony with urban environments and is budgeted \$130,000 per fiscal year.

## Current Funding Available - as of June 30, 2023

- IIAPM \$163,639
- Public Access \$47,500
- Urban \$67,956

## **Previously Funded Projects Include:**

- New Mexico Jumping Mice Ecology (2023)
- Desert Pupfish Genetic Evaluation (2023)
- Betty's Kitchen Conservation Education (2022)

For more information, please reach out to **Ryan Babel**, *Natural Resources Planner* - 623 236-7521 or email him at <a href="mailto:rbabel@azgfd.gov">rbabel@azgfd.gov</a>.

# **Board Member Spotlight - Sreekar Krishsna**

Sreekar is an ardent enthusiast of the outdoors and everything wild. Camping, hiking, photography and star gazing has taken him to every nook and corner of Arizona over the past 16+ years. From Grand Canyon, to Canyon de Chelly, to Chiricahua National Monument he has spent a lot of time admiring and

Chiricahua National Monument he has spent a lot of time admiring and appreciating the beauty of Arizona's high/low deserts and the sky islands. With a keen sense of the work it takes to keep wild lands wild, Sreekar has spent a lot of time understanding and appreciating the complex balance of policies that support and preserve wildlands for the future. In his spare time, he scratch-builds historically accurate scale replicas of 20th century steam-era railway stations – Flagstaff station being his first.

Sreekar is a graduate of Arizona State University with a Master's and a

PhD in Electrical Engineering. Having briefly left Arizona to work as a Computer Scientist researcher for Microsoft Research in Washington, he moved back to sunny Tempe in pursuit of a new career in technology consulting and business transformation. Currently Sreekar serves as a Principal/Partner in the Digital LightHouse practice in KPMG US focusing on transforming businesses to deliver unique automation-driven technology revolution to their customers. As a continuing effort to develop top talent in the state of Arizona, Sreekar teaches at the WP Carey School of Business as an Adjunct Faculty, and also serves as one of the key advisors in the WP Carey School's Executive Advisory Board.

# **Partner Spotlight - County Supervisors Association of**

**Arizona** – For more than 30 years, the <u>County Supervisors Association of Arizona</u> (CSA) has served as a non-partisan forum for county officials to address important issues facing local constituents, providing a mechanism to share information and to develop a proactive state and federal policy agenda. CSA membership includes the 61 elected supervisors from Arizona's 15 counties. The association's

efforts are strengthened by the involvement of top-level county professional staff, who provide technical expertise necessary to inform policy discussions.

All county supervisors serve on the <u>CSA Board of Directors</u> and provide input into organizational strategy and the evaluation of operational performance. Annually, the board elects six members to serve in CSA leadership



positions on the <u>CSA Executive Committee</u>. Each county appoints a representative to the <u>Legislative Policy Committee</u> (LPC). The LPC meets as often as necessary to evaluate legislative measures and make policy recommendations to the full board.

The annual CSA Legislative Policy Summit will provide a forum for county supervisors to discuss top legislative priorities. Counties will consider and discuss the proposed county resolutions to be prioritized into short – and long-term public policy proposals and positions. Within these discussions, counties will prioritize the needs of its citizens and establish a lobbying strategy to maximize the value of the proposals that will be presented to the legislature.

## **Historic Preservation, Parks, and Trail Resources**

<u>Arizona Preservation Foundation</u> maintains a listing of funding opportunities for historic preservation-related projects across Arizona and the nation.

Arizona State Parks and Trails - Statewide Calendar Search events by State Parks and/or Regions.

Arizona Trails Association - The Arizona National Scenic Trail is a complete non-motorized path from Mexico to Utah, stretching 800 diverse miles across Arizona to link deserts, mountains, canyons, forests, history, communities and diverse peoples. The Arizona Trail Association's mission is to protect, maintain, enhance, promote and sustain the Arizona Trail as a unique encounter with the natural environment.

<u>Arizona Game and Fish Department</u> Volunteer Opportunities - Learn how to become a volunteer with the AZ Game and Fish.

## **Upcoming Events**

2024 Arizona Preservation Conference - June 25 - 27, 2024, Prescott, AZ

<u>2024 Arizona Parks and Recreation Association's Annual Conference</u> - August 26 - 28, 2024, JW Marriott Starr Pass, Tucson, AZ

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## <u>azheritage.org</u> • <u>mail@azheritage.org</u>

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 cultural resources
- Monitor state legislative and agency activity







#### **Donate**

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Our mailing address is: P.O. Box 16282, Phoenix, AZ  $\,$  85011  $\,$ 

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