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

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ARIZONA HERITAGE ALLIANCE

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

Dear AZ Heritage Alliance Members, Partners and Friends,

Reflecting on a Decade of Impact

This year, we mark an important milestone in the Arizona Heritage Alliance's journey. Over the past decade, we have successfully worked to restore the Arizona State Parks Heritage Fund, a critical resource benefiting communities across Arizona. Thanks to the efforts of thousands of community allies and legislative champions, the fund was reinstated into statute in 2019. Since then, **\$25,782,739** has been allocated to essential projects:

- 50% for parks (local, regional, and state)



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- 10% for outdoor and environmental education

These funds, along with previous State Parks Heritage Fund projects from 1992 to 2008, have transformed Arizona's outdoor spaces and cultural heritage, leaving a lasting impact on residents and visitors alike. Detailed project information, complete with photos and an interactive map, is available <https://azheritage.org/downloads-resources/>

Legislative Challenges and Future Commitment

Despite our successes, 2024 brought setbacks. Senate Concurrent Resolution 1038, which would have secured future funding for the State Parks Heritage Fund, narrowly failed in the State Senate by just one vote. Although this defeat was disappointing, our resolve remains strong. We are actively strategizing for fiscal year 2025 funding and will continue to champion this cause with your support.

Public Support for Outdoor Investment

Encouragingly, a recent statewide survey conducted by Noble Predictive Insights for the Arizona Wildlife Federation highlights overwhelming bipartisan support for outdoor activities and funding initiatives:

- 84% of voters expressed concern about young people not spending enough time outdoors
- 80% support increased funding for state parks
- 80% support protecting the Arizona National Scenic Trail
- 76% back restoring the Arizona State Parks Heritage Fund

Notably, these numbers held steady across diverse demographics, including Hispanic voters and Republican respondents. The survey underscores a shared value: Arizonans want greater investment in nature and outdoor resources, transcending political and cultural boundaries.

Collaborations and Advocacy

Throughout the year, the Arizona Heritage Alliance has worked diligently to strengthen partnerships and advocate for the protection of Arizona's natural, cultural, and historic treasures. Key activities include

- Participating in State Parks Board meetings to support aligned projects

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- Enhancing outreach through our website, social media channels, newsletters, and direct engagement
- Investigating the commissioning of a study to outline the full economic and social impact of the Arizona Heritage Fund since its inception in 1990

Recognizing Milestones

We celebrate significant achievements in 2024, including the opening of Rockin' River Ranch State Park and the trail named in honor of Janice Miano, our past executive director and board president. Additionally, we applaud the protection of 734 acres in partnership with state and local organizations, paving the way for a new state park in Yavapai County that will preserve critical natural resources and historic sites while expanding recreational opportunities. Meanwhile, the Arizona Game and Fish Department, partnering with wildlife conservation organizations, put a combined total of \$24.2 million into on-the-ground projects for terrestrial and aquatic wildlife conservation in 2023 (the last full reporting year).

Gratitude and Call to Action

Our progress would not be possible without the steadfast support of elected officials on both sides of the aisle, stakeholders, and friends across Arizona. Yet, challenges lie ahead. The state budget shortfall threatens our gains, and we must work tirelessly to secure funding in the coming fiscal year and advocate for a long-term restoration of the State Park Heritage Fund's original Arizona Lottery financing.

Your support makes a difference. Whether through membership, donations, or advocacy, you play a vital role in sustaining our mission. Contributions can be made online <https://azheritage.org/> or mailed to:

Arizona Heritage Alliance
P.O. Box 16282
Phoenix, AZ 85011

Together, we can ensure that Arizona's natural, cultural, and historic resources are preserved and celebrated for generations to come.

With gratitude,

Jim McPherson
President

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 year, 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 category 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
- Yuma County - Foothills Park Development
- City of Winslow - Remembrance Garden and Park



2023-24 Heritage Fund Grant Awardees

On June 30, 2023 Arizona Governor Katie Hobbs signed the state budget for Fiscal Year 2024, including \$6 million to fund the Arizona State Parks Heritage Fund. Through a matching grant process developed by the Arizona State Parks Board in consultation with staff of Arizona State Parks & Trails and the State Historic Preservation Office the monies in the State Parks Heritage Fund have been (and continue to be) allocated as follows: ➤ 50% (\$3 million) on local, regional, and state parks for outdoor recreation and open space development, restoration, or renovation, ➤ 30% (\$1.8 million) on local, regional, and state historic preservation projects, ➤ 10% (\$600,000) on local, regional, and state non-motorized trails, and ➤ 10% (\$600,000) on outdoor and environmental education

Outdoor Environmental Education Category














 Sponsor: Flagstaff Unified School District District: 67 Project Title: Camp Cobon HF Grant: \$40,652 Match: \$35,920 Project Total: \$76,572	 Sponsor: Ruber Science Exploration & Research Center District: 21 Project Title: Sky Island STEAM Express Mobile Lab HF Grant: \$120,000 Match: \$77,800 Project Total: \$197,800
 Sponsor: Flagstaff Trails Initiative District: 67 Project Title: Snok Trail head Update HF Grant: \$16,234 Match: \$4,900 Project Total: \$21,136	 Sponsor: Arizona Wildlife Federation District: Statewide Project Title: Arizona Wildlife Federation Education Program HF Grant: \$119,746.20 Match: \$13,302 Project Total: \$133,048.20
 Sponsor: Grand Canyon Youth District: Statewide Project Title: Exploring Arizona Watersheds HF Grant: \$21,000 Match: \$4,000 Project Total: \$25,000	 Sponsor: Maricopa Trail and Park Foundation District: Project Title: Maricopa Trail Safety and Environmental Education HF Grant Grant: \$47,541 Match: \$5,950 Project Total: \$53,491
 Sponsor: Verde Valley Cyclists Coalition District: Project Title: Bike Bell Distribution HF Grant: \$21,756 Match: \$2,588.60 Project Total: \$24,344.60	
 Sponsor: City of Flagstaff District: 67 Project Title: Outdoor Environmental Education Program HF Grant: \$119,734 Match: \$15,500 Project Total: \$135,234	

As of 9.12.2024

Historic Preservation

- Arizona Copper Art Museum - Main Street
- Mesa Historical Society - Lehi Auditorium
- City of Phoenix - Sergeant-Oldaker House

- St. Philip's Preservation and Endowment Foundation - St. Philip's In the Hills Historic Church
- Archeology Southwest - Taawaki: Orayvi Sun Clan House
- Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation - Tallesin West Public Accessibility Improvements
- Cartwright School District - Cartwright Heritage House
- Town of Oro Valley - Proctor-Leiber House Condition Assessment
- Town of Bisbee - 1908 Fair Store Sidewalk Preservation
- Housing Opportunity Center - Monroe Street Window Renovation
- Arizona Board of Regents District - Kerr Restoration

Historic Preservation Category (Cont.)	Non-Motorized Trails Category
 <p>Sponsor: Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation District: Tallesin West Public Accessibility Improvements HF Grant: \$19,416 Match: \$12,844 Project Total: \$32,260</p>	 <p>Sponsor: City of Sierra Vista District: 19 Project Title: Garden Wash Phase III HF Grant: \$120,000 Match: \$13,350 Project Total: \$133,350</p>
 <p>Sponsor: Cartwright School District District: Cartwright Heritage House Preservation HF Grant: \$170,546 Match: \$113,699 Project Total: \$284,245</p>	 <p>Sponsor: Prescott Mountain Bike Alliance District: 1 Project Title: Bean Peaks Gravity Flow System HF Grant: \$120,000 Match: \$7,441 Project Total: \$127,441</p>
 <p>Sponsor: Town of Oro Valley District: 1718 Project Title: Proctor-Leiber House Condition Assessment HF Grant: \$30,000 Match: \$20,000 Project Total: \$50,000</p>	 <p>Sponsor: Hawes Trail Alliance District: Red Mountain Park Lot Improvements HF Grant: \$120,000 Match: \$40,000 Project Total: \$160,000</p>
 <p>Sponsor: Bisbee District: 21 Project Title: 1908 Fair Store Sidewalk Preservation HF Grant: \$91,527 Match: \$64,510 Project Total: \$156,037</p>	 <p>Sponsor: Town of Snowflake District: 7 Project Title: Cottonwood Wash Trail HF Grant: \$80,200 Match: \$8,500 Project Total: \$161,000</p>
 <p>Sponsor: Housing Opportunity Center District: Monroe Street Window Renovation HF Grant: \$358,350 Match: \$238,900 Project Total: \$597,250</p>	 <p>Sponsor: Coconino County District: N/A Project Title: Frontiere Trails Project HF Grant: \$120,000 Match: \$45,000 Project Total: \$165,000</p>
 <p>Sponsor: Arizona Board of Regents District Project Title: Kerr Restoration HF Grant: \$34,500 Match: \$24,000 Project Total: \$58,500</p>	 <p>Sponsor: Verde Valley Trail Fund District: 1 Project Title: Verde Valley Circle Trail Segment 8 HF Grant: \$120,000 Match: \$63,180 Project Total: \$183,180</p>
	 <p>Sponsor: National Forest Foundation District: Statewide Project Title: Finger Rock & Pontatoc Canyon Trail Enhancement HF Grant: \$100,000 Match: \$34,000 Project Total: \$134,000</p>

As of 9.12.2024

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
- Coconino County - Frontiere Trails Project
- Verde Valley Trail Fund - Verde Valley Circle Trail
- National Forest Foundation - Finger Rock & Pontatoc Canyon Trail Enhancement

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

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- City of Flagstaff - Outdoor Environmental Education

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

Sponsor: City of Avondale
District: 22
Project Title: DeConcini Park Development
HF Grant: \$500,000
Match: \$1,603,744.10
Project Total: \$1,963,744.10

Sponsor: Town of Duncan
District: 6
Project Title: Veteran & Centennial Park Upgrades and Repairs
HF Grant: \$500,000
Match: \$500,000
Project Total: \$1,000,000

Sponsor: Tohono O'odham
District:
Project Title: Walk Community Park
HF Grant: \$500,000
Match: \$1,500,000
Project Total: \$2,000,000

Sponsor: Town of Snowflake
District: 7
Project Title: Bike and Trails Park Land Purchase
HF Grant: \$64,519
Match: \$464,519
Project Total: \$529,038

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

Sponsor: Yuma County
District: 33,25
Project Title: foothills Park Development
HF Grant: \$110,000
Match: \$250,000
Project Total: \$360,000

Sponsor: City of Winslow
District: 6
Project Title: Remembrance Garden and Park Improvement
HF Grant: \$145,770
Match: \$145,787
Project Total: \$291,557

District: 1
Project Title: Main Street
HF Grant: \$346,678.10
Match: \$239,902
Project Total: \$606,580.10

Sponsor: Mesa Historical Society
District: 8, 10, 15
Project Title: Renovation of the Historic Lehi Auditorium
HF Grant: \$134,066
Match: \$70,600
Project Total: \$175,366

Sponsor: City of Phoenix
District:
Project Title: Sergeant-Oldaker House Relocation & Rehabilitation
HF Grant: \$234,229
Match: \$216,220
Project Total: \$490,549

Sponsor: Riado Theatre Foundation
District:
Project Title: Historic Riado Theatre Restoration
HF Grant: \$95,916
Match: \$38,500
Project Total: \$134,416

Sponsor: Archaeology Southwest
District: Sitewide
Project Title: Romero Site Interpretive Sign
HF Grant: \$40,136
Match: \$38,448
Project Total: \$78,584

Sponsor: St. Philip's Preservation and Endowment Foundation
District:
Project Title: St. Philip's in the Hills Historic Church Restoration
HF Grant: \$99,712
Match: \$104,219
Project Total: \$203,931

Sponsor: Archaeology Southwest
District: N/A
Project Title: Tawakli Ornyvi Sun Clan House Rehabilitation
HF Grant: \$145,882
Match: \$93,570
Project Total: \$244,522

As of 9.12.2024

Historic Preservation, Parks, and Trail Resources

[Arizona Preservation Foundation](#) 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.

[Arizona Game and Fish Department](#) Volunteer Opportunities - Learn how to become a volunteer with the AZ Game and Fish.

Upcoming Events

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[2025 Preserve AZ Conference & Governor's Heritage Preservation Honor Awards](#) - May 14-17, 2025.

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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 cultural resources
- Monitor state legislative and agency activity



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