Arizona Heritage Alliance

Formed in 1992, **the Arizona Heritage Alliance** is a 501 (c)(3) membership-based organization. The Alliance's **mission is to protect, preserve and enhance Arizona's historic, cultural and natural heritage.** Our goals include:

- Protecting the integrity and voter intent of the Arizona State Parks Heritage Fund and the Game and Fish Heritage Fund.
- Monitoring state legislative and agency activity.
- Pursuing sustainable and dedicated funding sources for Arizona's wildlife, open space, parks, and historic and cultural programs and activities.
- Inform Arizonans on the benefits of Arizona's wildlife, open space, parks, and historic and cultural resources.








The Arizona Heritage Alliance is a non-profit 501 c 3 organization that is funded solely with private donations, grants and memberships. Our membership is comprised of individuals and organizations that are passionate about protecting, promoting and preserving Arizona's historic, cultural and natural heritage.

Each year we join other conservationists and environmentalists from across the State and actively participate in Environmental Day at the Capitol. During the year we attend statewide conferences and forums speaking on behalf of Arizona's historic, cultural and natural assets.

The Alliance will never cease to protect and monitor the Arizona Game and Fish Heritage Funds. The Board and staff remain dedicated to exploring how to establish a sustainable funding source that will provide support for local, regional and state parks, the state's historic and cultural treasures and Arizona's natural environment—thus replacing the half of the Heritage Fund that was lost in 2009 due to State budget cuts.

ARIZONA FORWARD
ENVIRONMENTAL EXCELLENCE
AWARD of DISTINCTION
2019

Arizona Heritage Alliance

P.O. Box 16282
Phoenix, Arizona 85011-6282
Phone: 602-738-8381
Email: mail@azheritage.org
Web: azheritage.org

1990-2026— Celebrating 36 Years

History

- The Arizona Heritage Fund was created by a voter initiative passed in 1990 to protect and promote Arizona's natural, cultural and historic resources. The Arizona Heritage Alliance was formed in 1992 to protect and monitor the Heritage Fund. Money for the Arizona Heritage Fund comes from the State Lottery. From 1990 to 2009, up to$20 million in annual lottery revenue was divided evenly between the Arizona Game and Fish Department and the Arizona State Parks Department.
- Between 1991and 2006, the Arizona State Parks Heritage Fund, Preservation Grant Program awarded 579 grants totaling $24,179,567.
- In 2010, legislation swept the State Parks Heritage Fund and eliminated it from statute in order to balance the budget.
- On June 7, 2019 Governor Ducey signed SB1241 restoring the State Parks Heritage Fund. On June 29, 2021, the Governor appropriated $5 million for the State Parks Heritage Fund for fiscal year 2021/2022.
- On June 30, 2022, Governor Ducey appropriated $2.5 million for the State Parks Heritage Fund for FY22/23.
- On June 30, 2023 Governor Hobbs appropriated $6 million for the State Parks Heritage Fund for FY23/24.
- Unfortunately, NO funds were appropriated for the State Parks Heritage Fund for FY 24/25.
- On June 30, 2025 Governor Hobbs appropriated $1 million for the State Parks Heritage Fund for FY25/26 and for FY26/27 no funds were appropriated for the Heritage Fund.

Game and Fish Department

- The Arizona Game and Fish Department Heritage Fund continues today and for over the last 35 years, the $10 million that Game and Fish have received each year has made a difference not just to wildlife conservation efforts, but also to the state's economy, public access, environmental education and outdoor recreation.
- The Game and Fish Heritage Fund is used to protect endangered species, acquire habitat for the benefit of sensitive species, provide access to outdoor recreational opportunities, and educate children and adults about wildlife.

Positive Impacts on the Quality of Life for Arizonans

- **Since the Arizona Heritage Fund's inception, over $370 million has been reinvested in our resources. The economic impact to the community from these grants has totaled over $235 million with $140 million of this money coming from matching grants.**
- In 2017, House Bill 2369 was introduced which would repeal the Arizona State Parks Board. The Alliance, along with other partners, launched a letter writing campaign gathering over 1,500 signatures opposing the bill. As a result of this effort, an amendment was proposed to remove the State Parks Board from the bill. In May 2017, Governor Ducey signed the amended bill and the State Parks Board remains in place as it has for the last 60 years.
- Heritage Fund grants to state, local, and regional parks provided recreational opportunities state-wide for camping, hiking, restrooms, non-motorized trails and safe/new playground equipment.
- Grants provided public and disabled assisted with access issues to public lands and parks – notably important for hunters, fishermen, and birdwatchers to be able to gain access through private land to public land.
- Provided needed resources for the historic preservation of buildings and archeological sites.
- Supports environmental education for schools, the preservation of endangered species and acquisition of critical habitat for animals exist for today's public and future generations.

Impact on the Economy of Arizona

- Reinvestment in the state's historic neighborhoods and other resources have raised property values and taxes.
- Grants for improvements in parks, trails, preservation of environmental resources, and education brought matching funds to all areas of Arizona.
- Maintenance and improvements in natural, cultural, and recreational resources attract tourists and businesses, employees, and individuals who wish to live and work in these areas.