



Pima County Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation

Partnerships Presentation

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Pima County Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation Department

- **Founded in 1947**
- **284 FTEs**
- **Very diverse department with over 200,000 acres of urban parks *and* open space:**
 - More than 180,000 acres of open space under management**
 - Some of the largest locally-managed parks in the U.S. (Tucson Mtn. Park, Cienega Creek Natural Preserve, Tortolita Mountain Park)**
- **Long history of conservation: Tucson Mountain Park founded in 1929**
- **Nationally recognized Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan, trails and environmental education programs**



Recreation Division

Partnerships with:

- YMCA of Metro Tucson and Pima Community College for the development and operation of the NW YMCA Pima County Community Center.
- Pima Community College for the development and operation of the Community Performing Arts and Learning Center in Green Valley.
- University of Arizona Cooperative Extension for 4H use of Roping Arenas and office buildings at various sites.
- City of Tucson for “Midnight Jam” and Senior Olympics.



More partnerships with:

- Sahuarita School District for operation of Sopori Park and Swimming Pool.
- Tanque Verde School District for the development and operation of the Lew Sorensen Community Center.
- A wide variety of private non-profits, such as "Friends of" groups, the Community Food Bank, Catholic Social Services, Pima Council on Aging, St. Elizabeth's Clinic, Coordinating Councils, etc.
- Tohono O'Odham Nation – Partner to assist with recreation staff training.



Natural Resources Division

Partnerships with:

- **Arizona Game and Fish Department** - NRPR has three recreational Access Agreements with AGFD on several of our ranches: A7, Rancho Seco and Six Bar.
- **With Arizona BLM** - NRPR has had three grants from BLM to address the impacts of UDA issue on County lands.
- **Buffelgrass Work Group and Southern Arizona Weed Management Area**- NRPR is a partner and leader in this effort to manage invasive plants. The groups have successfully worked together to sponsor successful grant applications for funding for research and on-the-ground control efforts of invasives.



Operations Division

Partnerships with:

- City of Tucson, allowing them to utilize county parks within city limits for community outreach projects:
 - Christmas tree recycling program
 - Distribution of compost bins for homeowner usage.
- Local school districts (Tanque Verde, Flowing Wells, Amphi, Marana) to improve and help operate fields to be shared by schools, and the public to help meet recreational demand.



Development Division

Partnerships with:

- City of Phoenix, Pinal County, Maricopa County and the City of Tucson in a benchmarking study to identify and establish best management practices.
- City of Tucson, Marana, Oro Valley, South Tucson and Town of Sahuarita, providing county bond funds, technical guidance and management assistance towards development of major parks and recreation capital improvement projects, totaling millions of dollars.



Planning Division

Our Planning Division has a long history of cooperation with Pinal County:

- Recently executed an IGA to formalize our ability to work together on a variety of projects, including park, open space and trail planning, and cooperative open space management.
- 1996-97 Tortolita Mountain Park Master Plan – Pinal was on our planning team.
- Pinal Open Space and Trails Plan: We helped develop boundary for portion of Tortolita Mountain Park in southern Pinal.
- Tortolita Mountain Park Trails Plan: Pinal is a member of our planning team (Kent Taylor).



More projects:

- Catalina State Park and NRPR planning of the Cañada Del Oro Regional Trail.
- USFS and NRPR trailhead design and development.
- CAP Trail - Cooperating on the Master Plan for the CAP Trail (60 miles, from Tohono O'odham Reservation to Picacho Mountains).
- Supporting the creation of a Picacho Mountains Preserve in Pinal.



More projects:

- Anza Trail: Mutually supportive on the development of the Trail, provided national planning model.
- Arizona Trail: Both counties are on the Arizona Trail Association Board, and are mutually supportive regarding the project.
- Economic Development and Tourism Office collaboration with attractions such as the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum and others.



Other Partnerships and Assistance

University of Arizona: Architecture and Landscape Architecture:

- Lecturing, mentoring students, serving on juries, acting as a “client,” serving on thesis committees, hiring and training interns.
- U of A and NRPR research on industrial-scale landscape irrigation and ranching.
- Arizona State Parks Kartchner Cavern research and planning.

Parks and Recreation Technical Assistance:

- Assisted the Town of Sahuarita, Pinal County, Town of Oro Valley, City of Casa Grande, Cochise County, Town of Marana, and City of Nogales on a variety of planning and development projects and issues.

