

# NEWS RELEASE

**Date:**  
May 9, 2022

**Media Contacts:**  
Casey Miller, Maricopa County  
Department of Transportation  
602.506.8301 / 602.290.0459

Dawna Taylor, Maricopa County  
Parks and Recreation Dept.  
602.506.9504 / 480.694.0394

J. Chris Wonderly, Bureau of Land  
Management Phoenix District  
Office  
602.818.8295



**Maricopa County**  
**Department of Transportation**  
2901 W. Durango Street  
Phoenix, AZ 85009  
Phone: (602) 506-8600  
[www.maricopa.gov/5307/Transportation-MCDOT](http://www.maricopa.gov/5307/Transportation-MCDOT)

**Parks & Recreation Dept.**  
41835 N. Castle Hot Springs Rd.  
Morristown, AZ 85342  
Phone: (602) 506-9500  
[www.maricopacountyparks.net](http://www.maricopacountyparks.net)



**Bureau of Land Management**  
**Hassayampa Field Office**  
21605 N. 7th Avenue  
Phoenix, AZ 85207-2929  
Phone: (623) 580-5500  
[www.blm.gov/office/hassayampa-field-office](http://www.blm.gov/office/hassayampa-field-office)

## Agencies Break Ground on Multiphase Project

**PHOENIX** – In 2019, the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors and Bureau of Land Management signed a lease agreement allowing the Parks and Recreation Department to enter into a Recreation and Public Purposes (R&PP) lease with the BLM Hassayampa Field Office. Under the lease, the parks department manages approximately 1,046 acres of public lands within a much larger BLM designated recreation area near Wickenburg, Arizona.

"The lease allows for the construction and operation of recreation facilities, including a park entry station, parking, picnic and campground facilities, nature-themed playground, restrooms, trailheads and trails, a nature center, and an Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) staging area in the Vulture Mountains Recreation Area," said Maricopa County Board of Supervisor Clint Hickman, District 4. "However, before we can begin construction on the recreational phase of the project, several other improvements must occur in the area."

Maricopa County Department of Transportation (MCDOT) will begin Phase I of the multiphase project. Over the next year and a half, MCDOT will construct park roadways, realign Vulture Mine Road and help to bring limited utilities to the area. Much of the work will be done adjacent to the roadway and will have minimal impact on vehicles traveling through the area.

"We are excited to be part of this collaboration that will connect residents and visitors to this recreational area," said Maricopa County Department of Transportation Director Jennifer Toth. "Please know, safety is our number one priority. As we begin construction, drive safely and be aware of workers, trucks and equipment on Vulture Mine Road."



"Once MCDOT has completed Phase I, we will move into Phase II and III, which focuses on day-use and camping facilities," added R.J. Cardin, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department director. "This project has been in the works for nearly two decades with several government agencies, the town, chamber, various stakeholders, and local community members providing guidance. While we have begun moving forward on Phase I, we are also focused on securing funding for additional phases."

"Because of the growth in Maricopa County communities, there is an increased demand for outdoor recreation in the area," said Phoenix District Manager Leon Thomas. "An R&PP lease allows the county to expand recreational opportunities for residents and visitors alike."

To learn more about the roadway project, please visit the Maricopa County Department of Transportation's roadway website at [www.maricopa.gov/5807/Vulture-Mountains-Recreation-Area](http://www.maricopa.gov/5807/Vulture-Mountains-Recreation-Area). Updates on facilities and recreational services being developed by Maricopa County's Parks and Recreation Department can be found at [Vulture Mountains Recreation Area Park Projects](#). And information on the Vulture Peaks area is available at [EplanningUi](#).

- 30 -

#### **Maricopa County Department of Transportation-**

*The Maricopa County Department of Transportation (MCDOT) plans, designs, builds, maintains and operates 2,524 miles of roadway within the County's unincorporated areas. MCDOT's core purpose is to provide connections that improve people's lives. The County's transportation system gives residents access to their homes, their employment, shopping, entertainment and more.*

#### **-Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department-**

*Maricopa County is home to one of the largest regional park systems in the nation, with over 120,000 acres of open space parks that include hundreds of miles of trails, campgrounds, nature centers, and the Desert Outdoor Environmental Learning Center at Lake Pleasant. Currently, there are 11 regional parks in the system, which we're happy to report were visited by over 2.4 million people in 2018. Whether you're planning on biking along a barrier-free trail, enjoying the scenic Sonoran Desert views on horseback, or peddling rigorously up a trail on a mountain bike, the parks offer a variety of opportunities for all types of users, ages, and comfort levels. Best of all, Maricopa County's regional parks are all within a 45-minute drive from downtown Phoenix!*

#### **-Bureau of Land Management-**

*The BLM manages more than 245 million acres of public land located primarily in 12 Western states, including Alaska. The BLM also administers 700 million acres of sub-surface mineral estate throughout the nation. The agency's mission is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of America's public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. Diverse activities authorized on these lands generated \$96 billion in sales of goods and services throughout the American economy in fiscal year 2017. These activities supported more than 468,000 jobs.*