

**NOTICE OF A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
OF THE TOWN OF CLARKDALE**

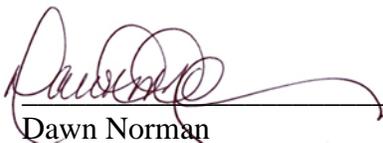
In accordance with Resolution #215 of the Town of Clarkdale, and Section 38-431.02, Arizona Revised Statutes,

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Parks and Recreation Commission of the Town of Clarkdale will hold a Regular Meeting on Wednesday, December 12, 2012, at 5:30 p.m., in the Men's Lounge of the Clark Memorial Clubhouse, 19 N. Ninth Street, Clarkdale, Arizona. Members of the Clarkdale Parks and Recreation Commission will attend either in person or by telephone, video or internet conferencing. All members of the public are invited to attend.

The undersigned hereby certifies that a copy of this notice was duly posted on the Community Development Building bulletin board, located at 890 Main Street, Clarkdale, Arizona on the _____ day of December, 2012, at _____ a.m./p.m.

Dated this 6th day of December, 2012.

By:



Dawn Norman
Community Services Supervisor

ALL ITEMS ON THIS AGENDA ARE SCHEDULED FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION, UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.

- 1. CALL TO ORDER**
- 2. PUBLIC COMMENT** – The Parks and Recreation Commission invites the public to provide comments at this time. Members of the Parks and Recreation Commission may not discuss items that are not specifically identified on the agenda. Therefore, pursuant to A.R.S. §38-431.01 (G), action taken as a result of public comment will be limited to directing staff to study the matter, responding to any criticism or scheduling the matter for further consideration and decision at a later date. Persons interested in making comments on a specific agenda item are asked to complete a brief form and submit it to the Parks and Recreation Supervisor during the meeting. Each Speaker is asked to limit their comments to five minutes.
- 3. MINUTES**-Discussion and consideration of the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on November 14, 2012.

4. INFORMATIONAL REPORTS

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT – A report from the Chairperson on current events.

STAFF REPORT – A report from the Community Services Supervisor on current events.

NEW BUSINESS:

5. UPDATE ON THE VERDE RIVER @ CLARKDALE PROJECT – An update and discussion on the Verde River @ Clarkdale Project.

6. SANTA COMES TO CLARKDALE – A discussion on the 2012 Santa Comes to Clarkdale event.

7. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS – Listing of items to appear on future agendas.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Reasonable accommodations may be requested by contacting Town Hall at (928) 639-2400 (TTY: 1-800-367-8939) at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting.

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
OF THE TOWN OF CLARKDALE**

A Regular Meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission of the Town of Clarkdale was held on Wednesday, November 14, 2012, at 5:30 p.m., in the Ladies' Lounge of the Clark Memorial Clubhouse, 19 N. Ninth Street, Clarkdale, Arizona.

Chairperson: Lynda Zanolli
Vice Chairperson: Barbara Van Wye
Commissioners: Debbie Pickard
Shannon Westcott
Peter Cure

Town Staff:
Community Services Supervisor: Dawn Norman

AGENDA ITEM: CALL TO ORDER – Chairperson Lynda Zanolli called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. It was noted that a quorum was present.

AGENDA ITEM: PUBLIC COMMENT - There was no public comment.

AGENDA ITEM: MINUTES - Discussion and consideration of the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on June 13, 2012.

Chairperson Zanolli motioned to approve the Regular Meeting minutes for June 13, 2012 as written. Vice Chairperson Van Wye seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM: INFORMATIONAL REPORTS

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT – A report from the Chairperson on current events.
There was no report.

STAFF REPORT – A report from the Community Services Supervisor on current events.

Community Development is working with the Crossroads at Mingus on developing a phase plan to implement the park construction and installation of the facilities recommended by the Parks and Recreation Commission. They are determining costs of those facilities and scheduling installation appropriately determined by funding readily available and continuing the addition of the remaining park facilities as build out occurs.

NEW BUSINESS:

AGENDA ITEM: CHAIRPERSON AND VICE CHAIRPERSON – Discussion and consideration of electing Chairperson and Vice Chairperson.

Commissioner Van Wye motioned to elect Commissioner Zanolli as Chairperson. Commissioner Pickard seconded the motion.

Commissioner Westcott amended the motion to elect Commissioner Zanolli as Chairperson and Commissioner Van Wye as Vice Chairperson. Commissioner Pickard seconded the motion. Both Commissioner Zanolli and Commissioner Van Wye accepted the nomination and the motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM: HALLOWEEN - A discussion on the 2012 Halloween event.

Community Services Supervisor Norman reviewed the 2012 Halloween event with the Commissioners. The following implementations were made this year:

- Event time: 5-7pm
- Costume Contest: 5:30pm
- Large ‘Trick-or-Treat’ Route Maps were added at each intersection, at each end of Main Street, and at the Park Gazebo.
- Additional event time signs were posted along Main Street and at the Park.
- New addition to event - ‘Halloween Hearse’. The owner of a classic black hearse volunteered her time to include it in the event. The hearse was placed on 11th Street and was decorated in Halloween gear along with a cemetery scene.

Community Services Supervisor Norman shared that she received many comments from parents attending the event that they liked the 5pm start time as it was still daylight and provided a better visual for them and their children while participating.

The Commission reviewed the survey results, number of participants and trick-or-treaters along with the expenses and donations received. There was a total of 1,424 Trick-or-treaters and 54 homes requested candy to participate. Donations received were: \$1,705 in monetary; \$407.98 in gift cards and discounts; \$95.50 in coupons; and approximately \$713.50 value in candy. A total of 12 surveys were returned with 100% in support of the event and operations of the event.

AGENDA ITEM: SANTA COMES TO CLARKDALE – A discussion on the 2012 Santa Comes to Clarkdale event.

Community Services Supervisor Dawn Norman reviewed this year’s Santa Comes to Clarkdale event with the Commissioners. She informed that holiday decorating was scheduled for November 27th at 10 a.m., weather permitting, and all Boards and Commissions were invited to partake. Refreshments of hot chocolate and cookies will be served after. She continued that an inventory was performed and new lighting is needed in order to replace the number of lights not in working order. She stated that in 2010 approximately \$400 was spent from the Parks and Recreation General Donation account and anticipates spending approximately the same amount.

Santa Comes to Clarkdale is scheduled for Saturday, December 1st, 11am-1pm in the Men’s Lounge. Volunteers are currently being recruited. In addition, Clay Convoy, Santa Claus, has informed that he is retiring due to health reasons and this will be his last year. Community Services Supervisor Norman asked the Commission to keep their eyes and ears open for any leads for possible prospects to fill the position.

AGENDA ITEM: CAROLING IN THE PARK - A discussion on the 2012 Caroling in the Park event.

Community Services Supervisor Dawn Norman stated this year’s Caroling in the Park event will be held on Friday, November 14th, at 6:30 p.m. in the Town Park. She continued that the event is coordinated and operated by volunteers and planning and promotion for the event has begun.

AGENDA ITEM: CLARKDALE POOL - A work session to discuss the Clarkdale Pool.

The Clarkdale Municipal Swimming Pool was closed in 2009 and 2010 due to the impact of the nation's unprecedented recession on the Town's budget. In 2011, as a result of the dedicated fundraising efforts of community members and town staff, and with the support of the Town Council, we were able to open the pool for 3 days per week for the swim season.

Unfortunately, after the 2011 pool season wrapped up, a number of significant issues with the pool's infrastructure were identified as needing repair or complete replacement.

Both the Pool Committee and the Parks and Recreation Commission expressed support for the Town to conduct further investigation into whether it is practical to make repairs to the existing pool's infrastructure; or whether a complete demolition and replacement would be more cost effective and efficient. The Town staff solicited estimates from multiple sources in order to explore costs associated with pool alternatives. Unfortunately, with no definitive design plans in place, the ability to collect accurate cost estimates is limited. What is evident is that there is a need for a significant initial capital investment, followed by a commitment to an appropriate level of on-going annual operational funds if the Town of Clarkdale wants to have a functional Municipal Swimming Pool.

Over the past 6 months, staff met with three pool contractors, Shasta Commercial & Olympic, CDC Pool's Inc, and Phoenician Pools. To date, the Town has received cost estimates from Shasta and CDC. The results are as follows:

Shasta Commercial & Olympic proposed the following options:

1. Renovation of Existing Lap Pool - \$306,500

This includes removal of existing gutter system, removal of interior finish and tile, removal of pool deck, wall, and floor areas required in order to install new plumbing, installation of new plumbing (return lines, drains, etc.), reinforce pool structure and resurface interior with plaster, install new waterline, deck depth and lane marker tiles, install new skimmer system (replacing gutter system), replace removed deck areas, install ADA Lift and anchor, remove old mechanical equipment and install new mechanical equipment, all required County and Town permits, and design drawings and structural engineering.

2. Remove and Replace Lap Pool with new Lap Pool - \$365,000

This includes: Removing existing pool and deck, maintenance equipment, and all plumbing and electrical and replacing with a new pool, deck, plumbing, electrical, mechanical equipment and ADA Lift.

3. Remove Kiddie Pool and Replace with Splashpad - \$125,000

This includes removing kiddie pool and deck and existing plumbing and installing splashpad with 24 spray nozzles, plumbing and electrical, and maintenance equipment. This splash pad does not include water toys which is approximately an additional \$125,000.

CDC Pool's Inc. proposed the following option:

1. Renovation of Existing Lap Pool - \$213,076

This includes removal of existing gutter system, removal of interior finish and tile, removal of pool deck, wall, and floor areas required in order to install new plumbing, material testing for presence of asbestos, installation of new plumbing (return lines, drains, etc.), reinforce pool structure and resurface interior with BAJA Mini Pebble (10-year full warranty/materials and labor), rebuild and contour existing ramp and 2- custom made handrails as required by ADA, install new waterline, deck depth, race lane markers, and 'No Diving' tiles, install new skimmer system (replacing gutter system), replace removed deck areas, remove existing underwater lights and replace with L.E.D. clear light fixtures w/ dawn to dusk solar photo eye switch, remove existing mechanical equipment and install new mechanical equipment.

Please note that these cost estimates only address the renovation or replacement of the pool and bringing them up to ADA compliance. Cost estimates to build an ADA accessible bathroom/shower room would be in addition to these costs.

At this point in time, the Town has \$23,683 set aside in the donation fund that is left over from the money that was raised to open the pool in 2011. In addition, the Town has continued to budget \$7,950 per year for the utilities, chemicals and staff time that are necessary to maintain the pool in its unused state.

At this time, the Town staff is seeking direction from the Commission on the desire for continued pursuit of options to re-establish a municipal pool in Clarkdale.

There was open discussion on the reality of the costs to either repair or replace the pool. The Parks and Recreation Commission concurred that with the current economic and financial situation it would not be feasible to discuss either option at this time. The Parks and Recreation Commission recommended that the remaining donation funds be held in an interest bearing donation account that could be used towards a future pool project and not to dissolve the idea of a pool for our community but to revisit the discussion at a later time when the Town would be in a financial position to take on the responsibility. They requested to revisit and discuss the pool in November 2014 and schedule future discussions thereafter accordingly. In addition, the Commission requested that the Town seek a possible partnership with the Cottonwood Recreation Center for use of their facility.

AGENDA ITEM: FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS – Listing of items to appear on future agendas.

Blue Trails

Verde River Access

Crossroads at Mingus Park

AGENDA ITEM: ADJOURNMENT-With no further business before the Commission and with no objection, the meeting adjourned at 6:28 p.m.

APPROVED:

Lynda Zanolli, Chairperson

SUBMITTED BY:

Dawn Norman, Community Services Supervisor



Staff Report

Agenda Item: **UPDATE ON THE VERDE RIVER @ CLARKDALE PROJECT –**
An update and discussion on the Verde River @ Clarkdale Project.

Staff Contact: Gayle Mabery, Town Manager

Meeting Date: December 12, 2012

Background: Staff will update the Commission on the Verde River @ Clarkdale Project. Items to be discussed include:

- Grant award received from the Walton Family Foundation which includes \$209,751 for the Verde River @ Clarkdale Project and another \$211,195 for a Water Resource Management Program, for a grand total of \$420,946. (Appendix 1 included in the letter received from Walton Foundation shows the specifics of how the grant funds will be used for the Verde River @ Clarkdale project. The letter of which is included in your packet.)
- Verde River Blue Trail Access Plan-December 2012 (Included in your packet.)
- The Town's Intergovernmental Agreement with AZ State Parks to jointly manage the TuziRAP site.
- The Town's Heritage Fund grant for improvements at the TuziRAP site.
- Discussions about securing a developed public access point upstream from Clarkdale near Tapco.
- Altria Grant for Summer, 2013

Recommendation: This item is scheduled as a discussion only, and no official action is necessary from the Commission

November 29, 2012

Gayle Mabery
Town of Clarkdale
890 Main Street
P.O. Box 308
Clarkdale, AZ 86324

RE: Grant #2012-1205

Dear Ms. Mabery,

It is my pleasure to inform you that The Walton Family Foundation, Inc. (the "Foundation") has approved a two-year grant of \$420,496.00 to Town of Clarkdale (the "Grantee"). The project term will be January 1, 2013 to December 31, 2014. This grant is subject to the following terms and conditions:

1. **Purpose:** The purpose of the grant is to support the Sustainable Clarkdale project. This grant is more fully described in Grantee's proposal dated October 25, 2012. Grantee agrees to use all grant funds exclusively for the grant's purposes. Any changes in these purposes must be authorized in advance by the Foundation in writing.

2. **Amount:** Four Hundred Twenty Thousand Four Hundred Ninety Six Dollars (\$420,496.00).

| | | |
|---------------------------|---|---------------------|
| First Installment | Payable upon completion of grant agreement | \$137,797.00 |
| Second Installment | Payable July 15, 2013 | \$137,796.00 |
| Third Installment | Payable January 15, 2014 | \$72,452.00 |
| Fourth Installment | Payable July 15, 2014 | \$72,451.00 |

3. **Payable:** Initial payment of \$137,797.00 shall be payable within 14 days of the receipt of a copy of this letter from Grantee acknowledging the terms and conditions set forth herein.

Further installments shall be contingent upon the Foundation's approval of the Grantee's activities of the grant as evidenced by the reports described in paragraph 5) below and other information the Foundation may gather.

4. **Accounting:** (a) The Foundation encourages, whenever feasible, the deposit of grant funds in an interest-bearing account. For purposes of this letter, the term "grant funds" includes the grant and any income earned thereon.

(b) Grantee will maintain records of receipts and expenditures made in connection with the grant funds and will keep these records during the period covered by the Grantee's reporting

obligations specified in paragraph 5 and for at least four years thereafter ("Maintenance Period"). Grantee will make its books and records in connection with the grant funds available for inspection by the Foundation during normal business hours as the Foundation may request at any time during the Maintenance Period.

5. **Reporting:** Grantee will provide the Foundation with interim reports due July 1, 2013; January 1, 2014; and July 1, 2014. The final reports will be due January 15, 2015. Guidelines for completing these reports will be provided separately.

Foundation staff will evaluate the effectiveness of Grantee's performance through internal review of progress made against the outputs/outcomes described in Appendix 1.

All reports should be sent electronically to Environment@wffmail.com. Please reference Grant #2012-1205 on all reports submitted.

6. **Representations:** Grantee represents and warrants to the Foundation that:

(a) Grantee is an organization in good standing, is either an organization described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code ("Code") or a governmental unit, and is not a "private foundation" described in section 509(a) of the Code. Grantee will promptly notify the Foundation of any change in Grantee's tax status under the Code.

(b) In no event will Grantee use any grant funds:

(i) to carry on propaganda, or otherwise to attempt, to influence legislation;

(ii) to influence the outcome of any specific public election or to carry on, directly or indirectly, any voter registration drive; or

(iii) to undertake any activity other than for a charitable, educational or other exempt purpose specified in section 170(c)(2)(B) of the Code.

(c) Grantee will comply with all applicable laws and regulations.

7. **Release and Indemnity:** Unless prohibited by law, Grantee shall release, indemnify, defend and hold harmless the Foundation and its directors, officers, employees and agents from and against any and all claims, actions, suits, demands, damages, losses, expenses and liabilities, arising out of or related in any way to the actions or omissions of Grantee (or its directors, officers, employees, agents or contractors) in connection with the Grant and the project funded by the Grant, except to the extent caused by the Foundation's (or its directors, officers, employees or agents') negligent actions or omissions. Grantee further agrees to carry insurance in such forms and amounts as are commercially reasonable and appropriate to cover Grantee's operations and to enable Grantee to indemnify and defend the Foundation as provided hereunder.

8. **Repayment:** Grantee agrees to repay to the Foundation any portion of the grant funds not used for the grant's purposes. In addition, the Foundation may discontinue any further payments to

Grantee, and may direct Grantee to repay any unexpended grant funds to the Foundation, if any of the following events occurs:

- (i) Grantee ceases to maintain its tax-exempt status as described in paragraph 6(a) above;
- (ii) Grantee fails to comply with the terms of this letter; or
- (iii) There is a material change in Grantee's key personnel that in the sole opinion of the Foundation adversely affects Grantee's management of the grant.

9. **Grant Publicity:** Grant publicity related to this grant consistent with Grantee's normal practice is permitted, subject to the following provisions. The Foundation expects any announcements and other publicity to focus on Grantee's work and the project or issue funded by the grant. Recognition of the Foundation's role in funding the project is permitted, provided that the timing, content and strategic focus of such publicity should be approved by the Foundation by sending a request to: Environment@wffmail.com. Please reference Grant #2012-1205. Publicizing the grant and the Foundation in Grantee's publications and communications in a manner consistent with similar grants obtained by Grantee is permitted.

The Foundation may ask Grantee to provide illustrations, photographs, videos, recordings, information or other materials related to the grant (collectively "Grant Work Product") for use in Foundation communications including the Foundation's website, annual report, newsletters, board materials, presentations, communications and other publications. Grantee agrees to provide the Foundation with such items upon the Foundation's reasonable request and hereby grants to the Foundation and anyone acting under the authority of the Foundation a fully paid-up, world-wide, right and license to use, reproduce, display and distribute the Grant Work Product in connection with the Foundation's charitable operations and activities. In connection therewith, Grantee shall be responsible for obtaining all necessary rights and permissions from third parties for the Foundation to use the Grant Work Product for these purposes. By signing this Agreement, Grantee also acknowledges and agrees to use by the Foundation of historical, programmatic and other information relating to Grantee and the grant hereunder.

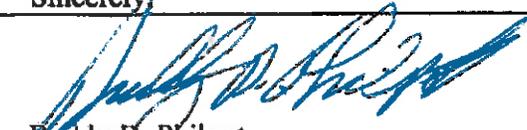
10. **Gratuities:** The Foundation desires that all of Grantee's resources be dedicated to accomplishing its philanthropic purposes. Therefore, Grantee agrees that it will not furnish the Foundation or its Board of Directors, officers, staff or affiliates with any membership, commemorative items, recognition plaques or gratuities or benefits of any kind.

11. **Contact:** For all communications regarding this grant, please contact the Foundation by email at Environment@wffmail.com. Please reference Grant #2012-1205 in your communication.

We have enclosed two original grant letters. Please sign one copy as Grantee's acknowledgment of the terms and conditions herein stated and return it to me in the enclosed self addressed envelope. If the signed acknowledgment of this letter is not received in the Foundation's office by December 10, 2012, the Foundation will consider the Grantee to have declined the grant.

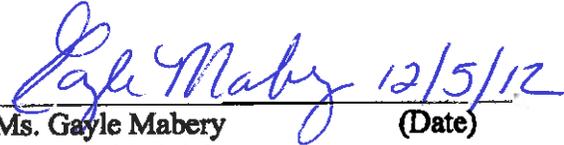
On behalf of the Foundation, I extend every good wish for the success of your organization's endeavors.

Sincerely,



Buddy D. Philpot
Executive Director

ACKNOWLEDGED AND AGREED

By:  12/5/12
Ms. Gayle Mabery (Date)
Town of Clarkdale

**Appendix 1: Town of Clarkdale
Sustainable Clarkdale**

Verde River at Clarkdale

1. **Tuzigoot River Access Point**
 - a. **Output:** Clarkdale, with consultants, develops draft site design including engineering and projected costs. Expected within six months.
 - b. **Output:** Clarkdale generates traffic counts at the entrance of Tuzigoot and Tapco sites to serve as a baseline indicator for access to the sites. Expected within 18 months.
 - c. **Outcome:** Vetted and approved site concept for enhancement to the co-managed facility at Tuzigoot. Plans will be reviewed and approved through the Clarkdale Town Council and the Arizona State Parks' Board and Chief of Development. Expected within 24 months.
 - d. **Output:** Project plan for facilities build-out for approved enhancements at Tuzigoot. As site concepts are developed and approved, Clarkdale will produce a project plan outlining next steps for the development of enhancement. This will include a plan for fundraising (outside of WFF) for the build-out. Expected within 24 months.

2. **Tapco Plant**
 - a. **Outcome:** An agreement between Clarkdale and private landowner(s) for access to an area adjacent to the Verde River upstream from Tuzigoot; the preferred access site is the Tapco Plant on private land held by Freeport-McMoRan. A signed agreement addressing access and allowed uses and infrastructure will be executed by all parties. Expected within 12 months.
 - b. **Output:** Clarkdale, with consultants and landowners, develops draft site design, including engineering and projected costs. Expected within 18 months.
 - c. **Outcome:** Vetted and approved site concepts for enhancement to the access point at Tapco. Plans will be reviewed and approved through the Clarkdale Town Council and the private landowner(s). Expected within 24 months.
 - d. **Output:** Project plan for facilities build-out for approved enhancements at Tapco. As site concepts are developed and approved, Clarkdale will produce a project plan outlining next steps for the development of enhancement. This will include a plan for fundraising (outside of WFF) for the build-out. Expected within 24 months.

3. **Brewer's Tunnel Diversion Dam**
 - a. **Output:** Clarkdale, with partners and consultants, will develop a report summarizing the options for the dam at Brewer's Tunnel. Report will include details on multiple options including, but not limited to, removal, modification and status quo. Report will address water rights, legal issues, recreational, operational and maintenance costs, and promotional values. Expected within 12 months.
 - b. **Output:** Clarkdale stays engaged in talks with the dam's owners (Freeport-McMoRan) to determine the best course of action.
 - c. **Outcome:** An agreement between Clarkdale and Freeport-McMoRan is reached on the Brewer's Dam Diversion. Expected within 24 months.

Water Resource Management Program:

1. **Output:** Clarkdale manages Lacher Hydrological Consulting to develop a local scale groundwater model appropriate for simulating water management scenarios for the Town of Clarkdale. Work will build off of the 2011 Northern Arizona groundwater model originally developed by U.S. Geological Survey. Expected within 15 months. Model will inform the policy options report completed by University of Arizona.
2. **Outcome:** Clarkdale, with the University of Arizona's Water Resources Research Center (WRRC), will produce a report recommending policy options for Clarkdale to reach its goal of sustainable water withdrawals. Results will come from a series of up to three two-day meetings of gathered experts. Report will also include recommendations on public outreach and identify resources and partners necessary for implementation. Report will be delivered by WRRC to Clarkdale.



American Rivers
Rivers Connect Us

Riparian Systems
Consulting

THE VERDE RIVER BLUE TRAIL ACCESS PLAN

FUNDED BY THE WALTON FAMILY FOUNDATION

DECEMBER 2012



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The Verde River begins 100 miles north of Phoenix, Arizona, and flows 200 miles southeast until it meets the Salt River. One of the few perennially flowing rivers in the Southwest, the Verde is vital to central Arizona, providing fresh water to thousands of people, as well as habitat for a wide array of plants and wildlife, including river otters, Yellow-billed Cuckoos, and North America's smallest deer, the Coues white-tail.

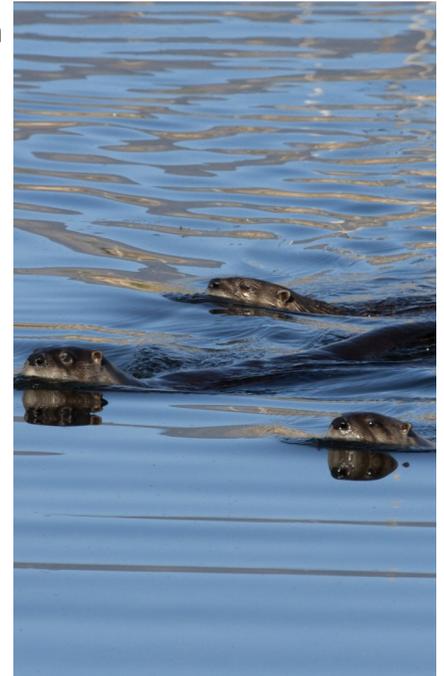
To protect this important natural resource, American Rivers and Riparian Systems Consulting are working with local partners to establish the Verde River Blue Trail, which will provide greater access to the river and its recreation opportunities. By creating stronger community connections, the Blue Trail will also be an important step toward protecting the river's health.

The Verde River is threatened by unregulated diversion irrigation and extraction of groundwater. Old and inefficient dams prevent fish from migrating naturally. By creating a Verde River Blue Trail, we will raise awareness these issues.

Through new parks, boat launches, and informational kiosks and signage, the Verde River Blue Trail will connect Arizona's residents and visitors to the river in new and exciting ways. Greater access to the Verde allows residents and visitors alike to easily engage in activities such as kayaking and fishing, and help them to see the river's importance firsthand. Not only is the Verde River Blue Trail connecting people to their river, but it is a model that is helping to shape the Department of the Interior's new National Blueways Initiative.

The Verde River Blue Trail Access Plan has been created to help communities along the river plan for future river recreational access in a way that balances two common yet conflicting natural resource management objectives: providing public recreational access and protecting the ecological, scenic and historic values of this significant regional resource.

It consists of several interconnected plans, each are synergistic with the others. They include the Town of Clarkdale's "Verde River @ Clarkdale" project, the U.S. Forest Service's "Verde Front" trails plan, the Verde River Valley Nature Organization river events, the Department of the Interior's "Blueways Initiative," and the overarching American Rivers Blue Trail designation for the Verde River, which ties all these plans together into one cohesive, effective river master plan.



The Verde River Blue Trail Access Plan provides guiding principles and practices on planning and constructing low-impact, environmentally sensitive infrastructure common to river access points, such as boat launches and primitive campsites. It is our philosophy that by appropriately planning, designing, and managing river access along the Verde River, we can proactively protect this invaluable resource.

Low-Impact River Access

The Guiding Principles for planning and constructing environmentally sensitive recreational river access are as follows:

- **Smart Access Planning:** River access points are planned from a regional perspective, focused on not only providing non-duplicative recreational opportunities but also on conserving natural and historic resources.
- **Corridors for Wildlife:** Riverside corridors are protected to provide habitat connectivity for wildlife dispersal, migration, and breeding habitat.
- **Natural Heritage:** The conservation areas of rare, threatened and endangered plants and animals are actively avoided to preserve these species and their habitats for generations to come.
- **Clean Water & Healthy Flow:** Water quality and quantity is protected for recreational uses, aquatic life, wildlife, the production of edible and marketable fish and shellfish, and the drinking water supply.
- **Go Native:** Non-native, invasive plants and animals are not intentionally introduced to new sites, and unintentional introductions are quickly controlled.
- **Scenic Integrity:** The natural visual quality and the sense of place is preserved.
- **Historical Resources:** Historic features are respected as part of the landscape and are not disturbed.



Smart Access Planning

“Smart Access Planning” is a planning approach based on a regional perspective rather than a single landowner or county basis. Why plan with a regional focus? A regionally-based plan can balance the desire for additional public river access points while also protecting the ecological, historic and scenic values of the river and its surrounding landscapes.

- **Practice:** Promote regional planning to avoid non-duplicative access. An example of duplicative access is adjacent counties or landowners installing boat launches on either side of their boundaries.
- **Practice:** Develop regional river access plans from a “Green Infrastructure” philosophy rather than from a built infrastructure perspective. Green infrastructures are our natural landscapes – an interconnected network of natural lands and waters that supports native species, maintains ecological processes, sustains air and water resources and contributes to the health, quality of life, and recreational opportunities for people. The placement of canoe launches is best planned from a regional perspective.
- **Practice:** Develop a plan for the long-term maintenance and management of the proposed recreational infrastructure. Public river access sites need a plan for continual maintenance. Before building new infrastructure, first work on committing the resources (funding and manpower) necessary to keep the future infrastructure clean and maintained. This also applies to volunteer efforts to build improvements such as trails. Plans for future river access sites should not be approved by the jurisdictional authority unless a long-term management plan has been developed and appropriate resources have been committed for maintenance activities.

Corridors For Wildlife

Riverside land linkages are key to connecting natural areas and features, connecting habitats for wildlife movement, and connecting people to a “magical and wild” river experience. Intact corridors provide biodiversity protection by serving as dispersal routes between natural landscapes for migratory birds, fish, and butterflies and by providing habitat for many common and unique plants and animals. Without these corridors, wildlife populations may decline and isolated populations even may experience loss of genetic diversity.

These riverside land corridors also mitigate flood impacts, control erosion and sedimentation rates, and filter out many pollutants before they reach waterways, thus protecting clean water. Additionally, natural corridors offer many recreational opportunities in our increasingly suburban and urban environments. Many cities and towns choose to protect their “greenbelts” as a valued community resource and include riparian corridors as part of their cultural identity and natural heritage.

- **Practice:** Preserve the connectivity and width of existing riverside land corridors (forests, shrublands, wetlands, and natural grasslands).
- **Practice:** Prevent the loss of corridor connectivity by prohibiting clearing of natural habitat, minimally within a 30-m buffer on both sides of waterways to protect water quality, but preferentially within a 100-m buffer zone to provide a wildlife corridor.
- **Practice:** When necessary to build recreational infrastructure within a 30-m riverside buffer (e.g., canoe launch), minimize the width of open area along the waterway to 20 feet.

Preserving Our Natural Heritage

Natural heritage is the biodiversity of the natural environment surrounding us – the plants, animals, and ecological communities that characterize the lands and waters of Verde River Valley. Humans are also part of the natural environment but our modern impacts, such as land development for shopping malls, are not. The way we live on the land can cause habitat loss, and this habitat loss is often the leading cause for population declines of many types of plants, animals and ecological communities. Many species or ecological communities have become rare in recent times, and thus there are many organizations and government agencies worldwide that work to protect them from future extinction.

- **Practice:** Prevent or minimize impact to species listed as threatened or endangered by federal/state authorities by requesting guidance from U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and Arizona Department of Natural Resources.
- **Practice:** Prevent or minimize impact to sensitive habitats of rare plants, animals, and ecological communities by requesting guidance from the Arizona Game and Fish Department.

Clean Water

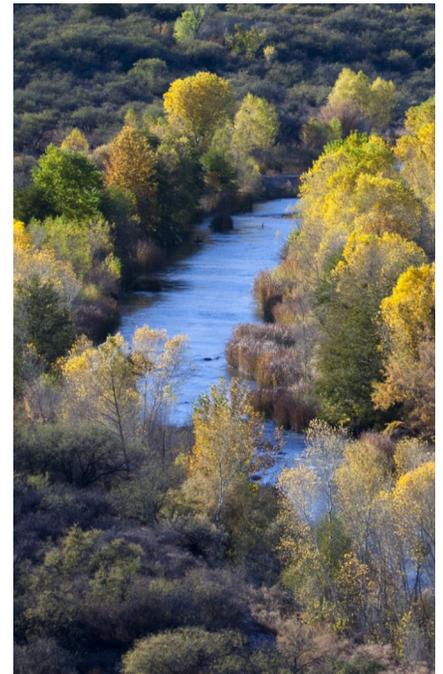
Healthy waters are defined as waters that are “swimmable and fishable.” Clean, unpolluted water is not only necessary for our drinking water supply, but also supports the biological health of fish and other aquatic life. “Healthy waters” depends on both good water quality and water quantity. In this plan we focus on aspects of protecting water quantity since this is the ecological attribute of river systems that is more likely to be affected by recreational river access features.

Healthy Flow

“Flow” refers to the water running in a river or stream. There are two important aspects to a river’s natural flow. First, there is the amount of water that flows in the river. Some rivers, like the Verde, get enough water from their headwaters, tributaries, groundwater discharge and rain to flow all year round. Others go from cold, raging rivers to small, warm streams as the snowpack runs out, or even stop flowing completely. A river’s natural ups and downs are called “pulses.” Like a human being’s pulse, a river’s natural flow of water is life support for animals, plants and fish, delivering what they need to survive at the right times. When we divert water away from a river, we change the river’s natural flow.

The second component of natural flow is how water moves through a river’s channel. In a natural, wild river, the water runs freely. But in more developed or degraded rivers, dams and other structures can slow or stop a river’s flow. When a river’s flow is blocked, migratory fish like salmon can suffer, unable to move up or downstream.

Because the Verde River’s flow are fragmented and even interrupted by numerous agricultural diversions, we will focus efforts on improve the flow regimes by encouraging improved ditch efficiency practices, providing effective fish passage, and assisting organizations such as The Nature Conservancy, in its projects to educate and assist diverters in water delivery efficiencies. At the same time, we will remain aware of opportunities that may arise to improve flows by replacement of diversion dams with modern and effective water delivery systems that help conserve downstream flows.



Riverside Buffers

Riverside buffers are naturally vegetated lands stretching along rivers and streams and they provide several important ecological services:

- **Practice:** Filter stormwater runoff. Pollutants and sediments are removed before the runoff from adjacent lands reaches the waterway.
- **Practice:** Reduce flooding of developed areas. Flood waters spread into the riverside buffer forests, losing energy.
- **Practice:** Reduce erosion problems. The vegetative roots hold soils on stream banks against the erosive force of moving water.
- **Practice:** Shade streams. Streams lacking shade-giving vegetation on its banks suffer higher water temperatures, detrimentally impacting aquatic life. Shaded, cooler waters also can absorb higher levels of oxygen and thus, critical to supporting aquatic life.
- **Practice:** Provide corridors for wildlife. Wildlife often use natural corridors, such as forested riverside buffers as dispersal or migratory routes.

These ecological services vary by the width of the riparian buffer, with generally wider buffers along a river having greater ecological benefits for the river and adjacent lands. Buffers should at least be 100 feet wide to provide water quality benefits. To provide wildlife habitat functions, buffers should be at least 300 feet wide.

Scenic Integrity

The Verde River, especially above and below the Verde Valley, wanders through some of the most beautiful and pristine landscapes in the nation. Spectacular vistas of geologic formations and riverside and desert ecosystems support hundreds of species of birds, mammals and insects dot the length of the river. These scenic values provide the Verde River's most compelling reasons for people to visit and admire the river's surroundings. The simple plan for preserving these values is "first, do no harm." Since the river is blessed with well-preserved scenery today, the primary goal is to prevent its degradation.

- **Practice:** Encourage local and state governments to consider the impacts of planning decisions on the viewscales of the Verde River and make every attempt to protect that viewscales for the recreationists.
- **Practice:** Encourage elected officials and policy makers to consider river corridor protection ordinances and zoning districts that will help protect the riverside and viewscales zones from encroachment.
- **Practice:** Any interpretative or directional signs should be minimal and unobtrusive. To the extent practical, do not include any unnecessary signs. Let people "discover" natural and historic features for themselves so that they may be enchanted by their own river encounters.

Historical Resources

Historical remnants still can be found throughout the Valley from Native American sites to early American industrial enterprises. Preserving these historical resources at their original location allows interested enthusiasts and scholars to continue to "discover" these traces of human occupation on their own. We recommend that river users respect these historic resources are part of the landscape – leave these features undisturbed for future "explorers."

- **Practice:** Do not disturb, remove or dig at any historic resources on publicly or private lands
- **Practice:** Leave historic resources for others to discover – do no harm.

Recreation Infrastructure

Non-Motorized Boat Launches

This section is applicable for landings of non-motorized boats (e.g. canoes, kayaks, etc.) in the Verde River Valley. The information below is focused mainly on practices to minimize environmental impacts. New or relocated non-motorized boat launches must be designed to minimize their impact on the rivers. When building a boat launch, various factors need to be considered: site selection, permits, design, and construction methods and materials.

Site Selection

- **Practice:** When selecting a site for a boat launch, first determine whether public launches are already present nearby in the region of interest. If so, the new launch may not be needed.
- **Practice:** The site should have sufficient space for the boat landing and also a modest parking area, but not exceed 500 feet.
- **Practice:** Choose a site for the launch at a naturally gentle slope on the river or stream bank. This will minimize erosion and make construction of the launch easier. It also will help provide an accessible launch to paddlers (significant height difference between the river level and the bank level can make climbing in/out of boats difficult). Natural features, such as gently sloped riverbanks, rock outcrops, and sandy or rocky beach provide the simplest and most cost-effective sites for a launch, requiring little or no construction.
- **Practice:** Select a site where the launch is easy to find for take-out but where it will not distract other river users from the scenic enjoyment of the river, such as on a tributary stream where it joins the river. Launches located at the mouth of a tributary typically are protected from the stronger river currents allowing for better paddler stability during put-in/take-out and also minimizes the scenic intrusion for other paddlers on the river.
- **Practice:** Avoid environmentally-sensitive areas such as habitat for endangered, threatened, or rare species and wetlands.



Additional recommendations for where to locate a launch are areas that have:

- Minimal exposure to strong currents and winds, such as river eddies, at the mouth of a tributary, on the inside of a meander bend, or below a meander on the opposite side from a river's cutting side;
- A moderate level of deposition that forms a natural beach suitable for launching;
- No physical barriers, such as impassable sections, dams, or weirs;
- Water levels enabling year-round use; and
- Good water quality.

Recreation Infrastructure

Non-Motorized Boat Launches

Design Aspects

- **Practice:** Develop a sound plan on the design of the boat launch, parking area, access trails and roads.
- **Practice:** Maintain or preserve stream bank vegetation. Minimize the clearing width of trees along the river bank for non-motorized boat landing to no more than 20 feet wide.
- **Practice:** Choose a launch design that minimizes impacts to the river and blends into the natural environmental. River bank features such as a gently-sloped bank, a sandy beach or a rocky outcrop are natural launches that can be utilized. Where natural features are not available, wooden boat slides are often an ideal design. Protecting banks from erosion and providing safe passage for boaters. Also, an eroding bank chosen as launch site can be restored with rock outcrops installed in a series of “steps,” allowing for a “natural-looking” river access at varying water levels.
- **Practice:** Avoid making any channel modifications such as reshaping a stream bottom with construction equipment.

Additional recommendations for designing an accessibly canoe/kayak launch:

- Launch should be between 9-24 feet from highest expected water level;
- At least 5 feet wide, preferably 6-12 feet;
- At least 25 feet to allow paddlers “dry” access for entire length of a boat;
- Do not exceed 8% whenever possible (a slope exceeding 15% makes the transition from land to water difficult);
- Handrails and other support structures help paddlers keep their balance during put-in and take-out; and
- Locate in areas without heavy flow, erosion, heavy boat traffic or fragile riverside habitat.

Boat Landing Construction Methods and Materials

- **Practice:** Use soil and erosion control methods during the construction phase.
- **Practice:** Use environmentally-suitable materials for constructing the landing. Pre-fabricated or poured concrete will destroy stream habitat on which it is placed. Use alternatives such as gravel or timbers.

Primitive Campsites

- **Practice:** Design hike/paddle-in primitive campsites to minimize environmental and scenic impacts by:
 - ⇒ Placing campsites at least 30 feet away from river bank;
 - ⇒ Choosing a location adjacent to a gently-sloped river bank to minimize foot traffic impacts (erosion is more problematic on steep slopes);
 - ⇒ Limiting width of foot trail from the river bank to the campsite to a maximum of 5 feet and curve the foot trail from the river bank to the campsite to protect the scenic view; and
 - ⇒ Remove only the vegetation needed to construct the footprint for the campsite and the foot trail.
- **Practice:** A “no open campfire” policy should be adopted to prevent human-caused forest fires and to Leave No Trace of a camper’s presence.



Inventory and analysis of existing condition of the river

Access & Amenities

Most of the formal access points on the Verde River are within the Verde Valley, between the Towns of Clarkdale and Camp Verde. In this area, there are 8 sites that have parking areas and various amenities including picnic tables and trash barrels. Only a few have restrooms or constructed launch areas for paddlers to put-in and take-out.

Primitive Campsites

There are numerous primitive campsites in the areas above and below the Verde Valley. Most of these are on National Forest Service lands. In the lower Verde, especially the section designated Wild and Scenic, camping is in wilderness and regulated to avoid pollution, trash, and campsite degradation. Many of these sites are tens of miles from any road, and are accessible only by long hikes or paddling trips. A typical paddle from Camp Verde downstream through the Wild and Scenic stretch of river can take 5 days and each night is spent at very primitive camp sites.

Signs

Until recently, signage to access points was minimal to non-existent but with the help of the Walton Family Foundation and the U.S. Forest Service, new recreational signage is being erected for all the access points in the Verde Valley. Signs will be located at: Broadway in Clarkdale pointing to the “Verde River @ Clarkdale” (way finding and recreational logos); Tuzigoot Road in Clarkdale pointing to the 2 river access points (4 signs with way finding and recreational logos); AZ Hwy 260 at Prairie Lane, Black Canyon, Bignotti, and White Bridge (recreational logo signage added to existing way finding signage); and way finding and recreational logo signs on Prairie Lane indicating river access and recreational logos at the turnoff to the Prairie Lane and Skidmore river access points.





Inventory and analysis of existing condition of the river

Attractions & Points of Interest

The Verde River Valley has a number of unique attractions and points of interest that are historically and culturally significant, most of which are appropriate for both families and individuals of all ages. These attractions and points of interest, which will be marketed through the Verde River Blue Trail, include:

- **Sycamore Canyon**, a pristine wilderness area with spectacular hiking and prehistoric ruins.
- **Verde Canyon Railroad** is a tourist excursion train operating 6 days a week, serving more than 100,000 visitors per year. The trip begins at Clarkdale and ends about 20 miles upstream at Perkinsville, then returns to Clarkdale. The rail runs immediately adjacent to the Verde River, and visitors are treated to views of red rock canyons, Bald Eagle nesting sites, Common Black-hawks, and spectacular prehistoric Indian ruins along the way. The train's popularity has steadily increased since it started operations 20 years ago, until the train today is operating at full capacity for all trips. Special excursions are provided from time to time, including wine tasting trips, birding trips, and moonlight rides.
- **Dead Horse Ranch State Park** is one of Ariona's most popular parks. Sited on the Verde River, this park has fishing lagoons, river walks, plenty of campsites, RV spaces and rental cabins.
- **Town of Clarkdale** is host to the new "Verde River @ Clarkdale" river access park. When completed, the park will provide paddlers access to several sites over 4.5 miles of beautiful river, and will host a shuttle to take paddlers upstream to put-ins. Soon canoeists and kayakers will also be able to shuttle 10 miles upstream to the confluence with Sycamore Creek, one of the most beautiful and pristine perennial streams in the Southwest.
- **Hiking trails** connect nearly the entire Verde River corridor through the Verde Valley, but many of these are social trails that are un-maintained. In order to improve the utility and accessibility of these trails, the Verde Front process is analyzing each of them, and will make formal recommendations to the USFS and the other land management agencies. This recommendation should be completed within the next year.
- **Tuzigoot Important Bird Area** stretches between Dead Horse State Park and the Tapco River Access Point, 4 miles upstream. The IBA provides nature lovers with outstanding opportunities for birding, hiking, fishing, photography, paddling and contemplation. More than 200 species of birds have been recorded in the riparian corridor, and the Verde Valley is home to the first ever designated in Arizona.
- **Verde Valley Wine Trail** offers an impressive destination for wine enthusiasts, and the viticulture/winery business in the valley is growing quickly. Yavapai College, in Clarkdale, is the home of the Southwest Wine Center – a new institute of higher learning for viticulture, winemaking and wine-oriented hospitality. The beautiful Verde Valley of Arizona, with towering cottonwood trees and ever-changing skies, is a far cry from the hustle and bustle of better known wine areas such as California's Napa-Sonoma Valleys.





Inventory and analysis of existing condition of the river

Attractions & Points of Interest (continued)

- **Town of Jerome**, an old mining town and once a ghost town, is perched precariously on the hillside overlooking the Verde Valley, and attracts between 500,000 and 1 million visitors each year, who come to shop in unique boutique stores and dine in its great restaurants. The visitorship to Jerome is climbing fast, and the town is now one of the Arizona's major tourist destinations. A great way to wander the streets of Jerome is to attend the town's First Saturday Art Walks.
- **Native American history** is rich in the Verde Valley. The people that settled the valley came for the water and the rich life along the river. Visitors can enjoy the massive Montezuma Castle National Monument, cliff dwellings, drive a little farther north and hike in to see Montezuma Well and take a side trip to Tuzigoot National Monument with some great ruins to explore and a visitors center.
- **Sedona**, 20 miles from the Verde River, attracts a huge number of tourists to its red rock vistas, great hotels and restaurants and quaint shops.

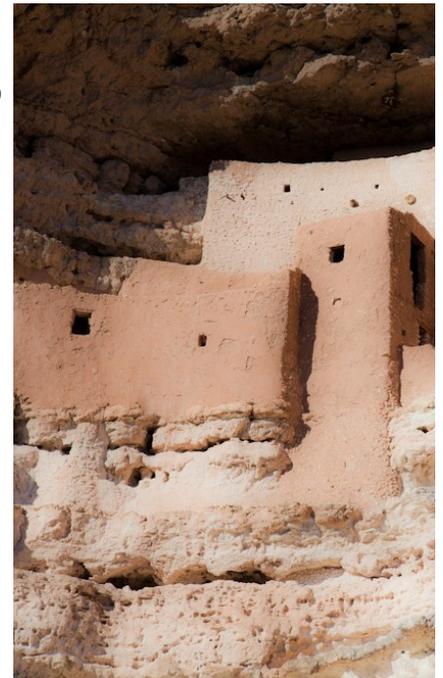
Needed Access & Amenities to Foster Boating, Fishing & Hiking

There are two new sites in the upper Verde Valley that are in the planning stage. These two sites are in the "Verde River @ Clarkdale" project being created by the Town of Clarkdale. When completed, these two sites will provide recreationists with restrooms, picnic areas, interpretive signage, put-in, take-out facilities and parking and may be attended by a supervisor.

The Verde Front, an effort to coordinate and facilitate better trail use in the Verde Valley, is examining which of the other sites needs improvements and what those improvements should consist of. The U.S. Forest Service, Yavapai County, and Towns of Clarkdale and Camp Verde are cooperating to see that these improvements meet the needs of the public.

Additionally, the Town of Clarkdale is considering whether camping may be appropriate in some spots from the Tapco river access point downstream to Tuzigoot Bridge river access point. Within that area, especially at the upstream end are sites that could accommodate camping, although none is allowed there now.

While paddlers can find places along the river to put in and take out, these are by and large informal, unimproved sites that are unattractive and difficult. For the Verde River to reach its full potential as a paddler's destination, especially for family-oriented uses, access points will need to be improved and publicized. The "Verde River @ Clarkdale" project will focus on providing convenient kayak/canoe access, including shuttle services and educational opportunities. If these efforts by Clarkdale are encouraged and supported, the river could become a major paddling attraction in Arizona and the Southwest.



Diversion Ditch Re-Engineering/Removal

One of the biggest challenges facing the Verde River is the number of essentially unregulated agricultural diversions that reduce river flows and create fish and boating barriers throughout the Verde Valley. The Nature Conservancy has undertaken a concerted local effort to work with the diverters to improve their efficiencies and to modernize their systems so as to keep more water in the main river channel. These efforts are proving extremely promising. The Blue Trail can support these efforts and help sustain and enhance Verde River flows.

Recreationalist/Landowner Conflicts

Private property rights and public access are very important to residents and visitors alike. Stretches of the land along the river is privately owned and at times, conflicts can arise between river recreationists and landowners. Landowner concerns include issues such as illegal camping and campfires, disrespectful behavior and trespass on private property. Recreationist concerns include issues such as fences spanning the river or the presence of undesirable viewsheds. Effective relationships and cooperation between recreationists and landowners have been and will continue to be important to the long-term viability of river recreation and stewardship of the Verde River.

Management Direction: Recreation should occur in a manner that minimizes potential conflicts between private landowners and recreationists. Appropriate authorities should communicate with both groups to monitor trends in concerns and seek ways to protect the public's recreational opportunities while acknowledging private landowner concerns.

INDICATOR: When there is an increase in the type and/or trend of and owner/recreationist conflicts.

- Landowner Reports
- Recreationist Reports
- Field observations
- Staff reports
- Potential management actions

Refine information to specifically address private landowner concerns.

- Work with landowners to facilitate the public's right to access the river under the stream access law.
- Increase informational contacts with the public at access sites and on the river to heighten awareness of respect for private property rights.
- Increase law enforcement contacts with a "zero tolerance" approach toward violations.

Traffic Volume & Litter

Current traffic volume on the Verde River is relatively light and easily managed. The goal, however, is to responsibly increase traffic, and with that traffic will come increased impact. The current plan for handling this increase is adaptive management that closely monitors impact and responds appropriately. The Town of Clarkdale, Town of Camp Verde, and U.S. Forest Service can assist land managers and owners in minimizing impacts as they occur.

While currently some litter can be found, it is minimal and can likely be controlled by signage and patrolling river stretches that are impacted most. This will be carefully monitored in the coming months so that land managers and river users can identify stretches that are impacted to an unacceptable extent. As areas are identified, the appropriate land managers will be notified and urged to provide trash pickup bags and signage. If litter continues to be a problem, entities such as the Friends of the Verde River Greenway, U.S. Forest Service, and the responsible municipalities will be engaged in addressing litter problems, which may involve organizing monthly cleanups and educational campaigns designed to decrease abuses.



INDICATOR: When unacceptable levels of litter and glass cannot be mitigated or eliminated with a reasonable level of administration by the responsible authority.

- Surveys
- Public input
- Landowner reports
- Staff reports
- Professional judgment
- Recreationist satisfaction
- Refine information to specifically address litter and glass.
- Increase informational contacts with the public at access sites and on the river to share information about rules and regulations and encourage appropriate Leave No Trace ethics.
- Increase law enforcement contacts with a “Zero Tolerance” approach toward violations.
- Temporarily or permanently close specific locations where litter and glass are prevalent.



The Verde River Blue Access Plan can be managed by the appropriate entities including the Town of Clarkdale, Town of Camp Verde, and U.S. Forest Service. A primary goal will be to engage the “Verde River @ Clarkdale” project at the upper end and a similar project near the Town of Camp Verde at the lower end of the Verde Valley. These two “anchor” projects will model the access we would like to see all along the river. The Clarkdale project is key to this process. American Rivers has secured funding to build a boat launch on the Tapco property, improve access at the Tuzigoot Bridge boat launch, install trash cans and pads, create and groom trails made of decomposed granite for handicap accessibility to the boat launches, and create interpretative, directional and regulatory signs. These projects will take place in the summer of 2013. As this project grows and becomes a center for river recreation in the upper Verde Valley, it will assist other jurisdictions in improving their access plans. The implementation of the overall access plan will proceed in an adaptive, evolutionary way so that the result will be durable, robust and organic in nature. American Rivers will assist the U.S. Forest Service, Town of Clarkdale and Town of Camp Verde in their access projects by providing expertise in funding, building and managing new access.

There is a need of an overseeing organization that maintains the vision and helps to coordinate the various projects along the Verde River. At present, this is done by American Rivers, Riparian Systems Consulting, and a few other dedicated organizations. Perhaps the Verde River Institute or the Friends of the Verde River Greenway could do this in the future. This is a need that should be addressed by the region as a whole, and the “collective impact” being held by the Walton Family Foundation grantees in the area may be able to address this need as well.





Staff Report

Agenda Item: **SANTA COMES TO CLARKDALE** – A discussion on the 2012 Santa Comes to Clarkdale event.

Staff Contact: Dawn Norman, Community Services Supervisor

Meeting Date: December 12, 2012

Background: Staff will debrief and review the 2012 Santa Comes to Clarkdale event.

Recommendation: This item is scheduled as a discussion only, and no official action is necessary from the Commission.