



# 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

PRESENTED BY:  
Grady Miller  
Town Manager



# Mayor *and* Town Council



**Robert Morris**  
MAYOR



**Kathryn Royer**  
VICE MAYOR



Council Member  
**Tom Augherton**



Council Member  
**Ernie Bunch**



Council Member  
**Paul Eelkema**



Council Member  
**Thomas McGuire**



Council Member  
**Dusty Rhoades**

## Acknowledgements

**Grady E. Miller**

Town Manager

**Teresa Riza**

Deputy Town Manager  
Town Clerk

**Luke Kautzman**

Development  
Services

**Hal Marron**

Public Works and  
Engineering  
Director

**Cherie White**

Finance  
Director

**Jim Ford**

Community Risk  
Reduction Director

**Carla Reece**

Administrative  
Services  
Director

**Shawn Kreuzwiesner**

Utilities  
Director

**Adam Stein**

Town  
Marshal

**Bo Larsen**

Communications and  
Public Affairs Director



## Strategic Plan Guides Town Activities



In November 2023, the Town Council adopted a comprehensive Strategic Plan to help direct the Council and Town Manager with a roadmap to accomplish projects and ventures that will position the Town for successful future opportunities. The plan takes proactive steps in five focus areas: Fiscal Sustainability, Economic Vitality, Safe and Vibrant Community, Innovative and High-Performing Organization, and Infrastructure. Through this strategic focus, the organization is well prepared to achieve pivotal projects that will shape and improve the Town.

## Town Budget Unanimously Approved



The Cave Creek Town Council voted unanimously in favor of the FY25 budget at the June 3, 2024, Town Council meeting. The annual budget, which covers the period of July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025, is capped at \$57,393,797. Changes to the budget can only be made within line items and the total amount of the budget must remain the same or less. The Town's Strategic Plan guided the budget process. Focus areas include Fiscal Sustainability, Economic Vitality, Safe and Vibrant Community, Innovative and High Performing Organization, and Infrastructure.



## Town Council Awards Grants to Local Non-Profits

Nine local non-profits in Cave Creek and the Desert Foothills received grant funding from the Cave Creek Town Council on April 1, 2024. The Council approved the recommendations of a newly created, resident-driven Community Grant Committee to award a total of \$40,000 to nine local agencies.

The Community Grant Program is directly aligned with the Town’s 2024 Strategic Plan category of a “Safe and Vibrant Community.” The agencies listed below promote public safety services, community relationships, and creative programs. They preserve, conserve, and promote the historic and cultural identity that reflect Cave Creek’s values and traditions. They support public/private partnerships and create diverse recreational activities and events that serve all ages, abilities, and interests.

- Cave Creek Museum - \$10,000**
- Foothills Food Bank - \$6,000**
- Cave Creek Unified Education Foundation - \$5,000**
- Desert Foothills Land Trust - \$5,000**
- Sonoran Arts League - \$5,000**
- Foothills Caring Corps (FCC) - \$5,000**
- The Holland Center - \$2,000**
- Desert Foothills Library Association - \$1,000**
- Cave Creek Dark Sky - \$1,000**





# Development Services

## Foothills Food Bank New Building to House Town Offices

The Foothills Food Bank and the Town of Cave Creek held a groundbreaking ceremony on October 5, 2023, for the new food bank facility and the Town of Cave Creek Public Works and Utilities offices. Located along the Carefree Highway east of Cave Creek Road, the Town worked with the Foothills Food Bank to review and approve plans for the construction of a new Food Bank Pantry, Public Works/Utilities Office space, and workshop.



## Town Core Medians Revitalization

The Town contracted with a native plant salvage contractor to relocate various cacti from other sites to medians. This year alone, 28 saguaros, 64 barrel, 21 hedgehog, and 5 ocotillo cacti were transplanted to twelve (12) medians in the Town Core.



## Tourism Bureau Provides Guidance to Visitors

The Town of Cave Creek Visitors Bureau has more than 35 volunteers and provided more than 4,000 requests for information from town guests. The Bureau connects visitors to local restaurants, shopping, history, hiking, horseback riding, and more.





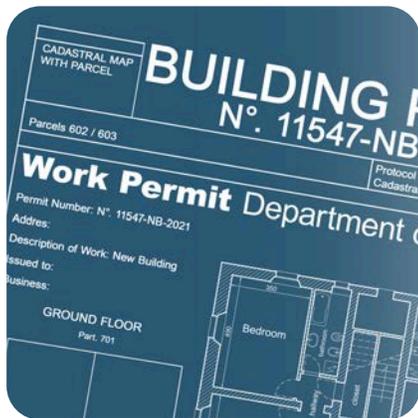
## Development Services

### Town Core Plan Approved by Planning Commission



The Planning Division has coordinated two public input meetings to gather input on the 2024 Town Core Plan update to help inform possible revisions to the document. Staff also created a webpage where the public can review and comment on the Town Core Plan. The Planning Commission held two public meetings to review and receive input for the 2024 Town Core Plan update. The Planning Commission recommended approval of the 2024 Town Core Plan at its regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday, December 21st, 2023.

### Online Permitting Process



The Town of Cave Creek has a new Permit Applications and Inspection Portal to submit construction, inspection, and installation permits. The portal also allows users to fill out and submit an “Owner Authorization Form” to permit a contractor to apply on the owner’s behalf. Some of the permitting options available in the portal include Water Heater Permits, Solar Permits, Fire Alarms/Fire Sprinkler Permits, Pool/Spa Permits, Demolition, Single Family Residence or Guest House, Commercial Tenant Improvement/Change of Occupancy, Commercial Building, and Residential Remodel, Addition and Accessory Structures.

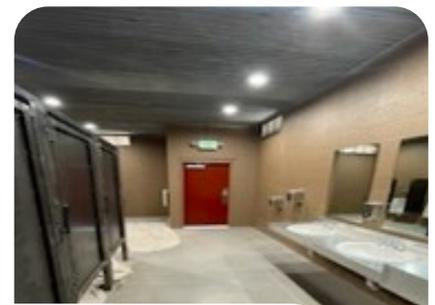
**Permits Issued**  
2023-2024: 444



## Development Services

### Rodeo Grounds Upgrades

The Town selected a contractor to construct new restroom facilities at the Cave Creek Memorial Arena and Rodeo Grounds. In addition to the restrooms, Staff relocated storage containers to the Rodeo Grounds to allow Cave Creek Rodeo Days to store related material on the property for the annual PRCA-sanctioned rodeo and renovated the existing Hospitality Building and relocated site fencing, increasing the usable area for rodeo-related events. In addition, Council approved funding to replace the storm damaged Skybox at the Rodeo Grounds. The Cave Creek Rodeo Association will reimburse the Town for \$515,000 for the cost of construction.



### Local Landmarks Recognized

The Town of Cave Creek is as diverse as its residents, local businesses, culture, entertainment, and wildlife! To celebrate this and promote exploration of the unique places that have shaped and housed the Town’s vibrant character, the Town of Cave Creek launched Cave Creek Local Landmarks. A bronze plaque award recognizes iconic buildings and spaces in Town, which interconnects the celebrated landmarks to a storytelling map.



Landmarks recognized in FY 23/24:

- Black Mountain Feed
- Buffalo Chip Saloon
- El Encanto Mexican Restaurant
- Desert Foothills Library
- Horny Toad Restaurant
- Indian Village
- Le Sans Souci French Restaurant

# Infrastructure - *Public Works*

## Safe Walkways Added in Town Core



Staff continues advancing a safe and designated pathway program through the Town Core. Staff coordinated the completion of a pedestrian pathway in front of Harold's Corral. Designs are approved for installing solar-powered flashing beacon crosswalks to help pedestrians cross Cave Creek Road.

## Welcome Sign Replaced



The Welcome to Cave Creek sign in the median north of Rancho Manana Boulevard was destroyed when a van struck it. The Public Works Department hired a firm to repair the sign's base. The week after Thanksgiving, the Town Public Works staff returned the sign to its rightful place in the median.



## Infrastructure - Public Works

### Safe Evacuation Route Signs Installed

The Public Works Department installed 30 new “Evacuation Route” signs in town. In the event of a wildfire, the signs are designed to help guide residents to the newly improved Arroyo Road alternate route, eventually getting them to the intersection of Cave Creek Road and Galloway Road on the east side of town. These signs will help evacuees with an alternate route to School House and Spur Cross Roads, which became blocked with traffic during previous fires.



### Annual Brush Drive Thru & Drop-Off Another Big Hit

Desert living means tending to nature to ensure safety before a wildfire. The primary wildfire fuel sources around our homes are dried non-native (or invasive) weeds and grasses. In April, Public Works crews helped residents unload their vegetation and ground the material for proper disposal.





## *Infrastructure - Public Works*

### Maintaining Town Roads Continues to be a Priority



Streets are a top priority for the Town Council in the Strategic Plan and Town budgets. The 2020 Pavement Management Plan helped identify the priority road projects and determine the best expenditure for the town's road management funds.

#### **Edge Mill and Overlay road projects completed:**

- Highland Rd from the west edge of the intersection of Spur Cross through the intersection of 56th St.
- Rancho Manana Blvd from the west end of the intersection of Miramonte Dr. through the cul-de-sac at the intersection of N. Fairway Trail.

#### **Complete Mill and Pavement projects completed:**

- 48th St from the southern edge of the intersection of El Sendero through the northern cul-de-sac.
- N. Canyon Ridge Trail from the west edge of the intersection of Chuckwalla Trail north through the northern Cul-de-sac.
- N. Hidden Valley Dr from the south edge of the intersection of Egret St. to the south edge of Skyline Dr.
- Skyline Dr from the west edge of Cave Creek Rd intersection east to the eastern edge of the Hidden Valley Dr. intersection.
- 50th St from the wash crossing just south of New River Rd. north through the intersection of N. Creek View Ln.



# Infrastructure - *Utility Services*

## Phoenix Interconnect Project Work Continues Through Spring of 2026

The Town of Cave Creek broke ground on a new water interconnect project with the City of Phoenix. The new connection will enhance the reliability of the Town's water system and provide up to 1.4 million gallons per day, or approximately half the Town's current peak day demand. This project will provide the Town with a new second water supply source, which will significantly increase the reliability of the Town's water supplies. The water interconnect project received a much-needed financial boost from the federal infrastructure bill approved by Congress in 2024. The funding helped assist in the design phase and complete construction services.



## Replacement Water Metering Provides Accurate Usage Data

The Cave Creek Water meter replacement program started. The Neptune system provides data and alerts, which allows customers to detect leaks early. In addition, the meters are compatible with radio base stations, which can provide almost real-time usage data.





## Stagecoach Village Lift Station Receives Upgrades



Utility staff worked with B&F Contracting to install two new manholes in Stagecoach Village and repair two damaged sections of the 6-inch sewer line. The new manholes allow staff to gain better access to proper inspections and cleanings. This project allows staff to be more proactive, which will reduce the chances of backups, breaks, and odors. Staff also worked with B&F Contracting to repair the 8-inch line in Cave Creek Road near Mountain View Pub. The maintenance holes were severely deteriorated, and crews installed new sealed covers.

## One Year's Worth of Water Reserves Achieved



For the past few years, the Town has been able to store the unused portion of our CAP water allocation in groundwater recharge sites. As of 2024, the town will have long-term storage credits equal to one year's water demands for the Town and Desert Hills water customers. The Town can use the storage credits to help fill the gap expected in the Colorado River supply reductions, which are anticipated to begin in January 2027.

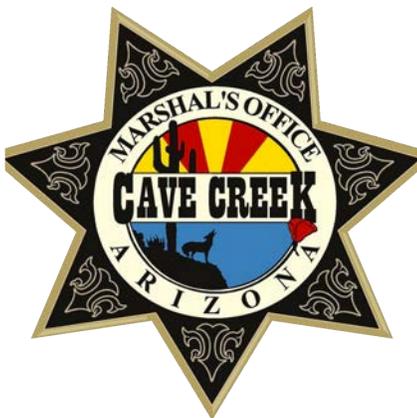
# Public Safety

## Cave Creek Fire Station Remodel On Schedule



On Nov 6, 2023, the Town Council approved the contract to remodel the Cave Creek Fire Station. The remodel is expected to be completed in December 2024. The new station will be 9,676 sq. ft. with a three-bay apparatus room to house a new 1,500-gallon fire engine, a 3,000-gallon water tanker, a brush truck, a trail ATV, and host an ambulance. The Town of Cave Creek owns the equipment and the building, while the Daisy Mountain Fire District provides the firefighters. Since December 2023, the Cave Creek Fire Department firefighters have been operating out of a temporary facility so that the work on the station can proceed faster and without interference.

## MCSO and Town Marshal Protect the Community



The Town of Cave Creek contracts with the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office for public safety, which serves the north-central region of Maricopa County, including Cave Creek. To help support public safety efforts, the Town Marshal provides a variety of safety services, including gun lock distribution, child identification kits, traffic enforcement, speed trailer deployment, security surveys, and a variety of community service work.

- 85 Traffic Stops for traffic violations
- 57 Citations for Town Code violations
- Fingerprinted over 220 residents
- 18 speed surveys and deployed speed trailers 32 times
- 150 investigations



# Finance

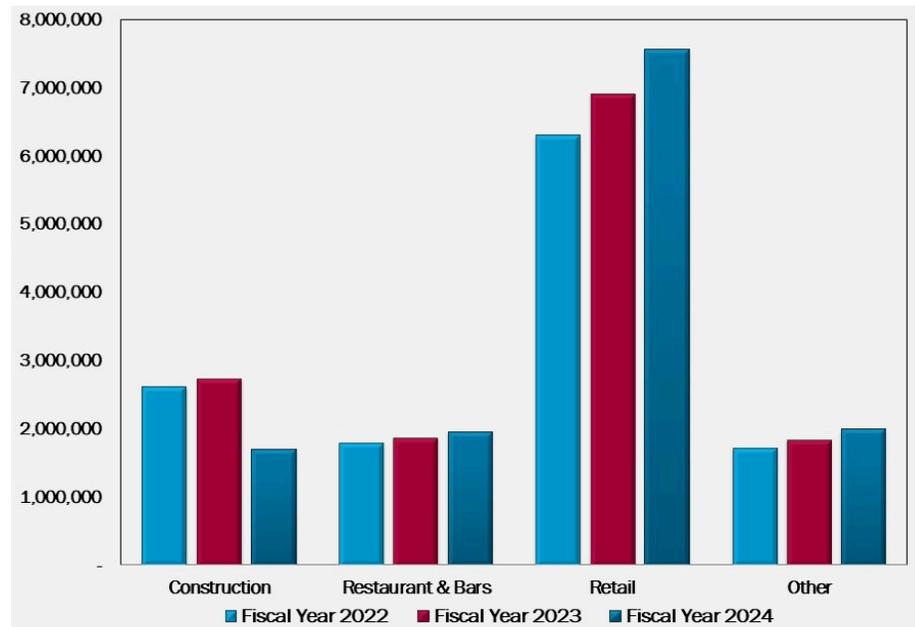


The Town's Finance Department continues to be recognized for financial reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association, representing public finance officials throughout the United States and Canada.

Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Report for the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report **26 consecutive years**

Distinguished Budget Presentation Award **4 consecutive years**

The Town of Cave Creek's Finance Department is committed to continuing the Town's conservative forecasting and budgeting. This proactive approach ensures that the Town remains on a solid foundation, able to withstand future uncertainty and changing demands. The Town will continue to provide services to its citizens and prioritize improving infrastructure to meet the needs and safety of our community.



Overall, the Town's sales tax revenues decreased approximately 1%, primarily due to a 38% decrease in construction sales taxes. The decrease in construction sales taxes was offset by a 9% increase in retail sales, a 4% increase in restaurant and bar sales, and an 8% increase in other miscellaneous sales taxes.



## Get the News From the Town

The Town of Cave Creek provides various communications tools to help learn about and understand upcoming projects and events.

The **Cave Creek Prospector** is the Town's new quarterly publication, mailed to each home.

The Town's website, [www.cavecreekaz.gov](http://www.cavecreekaz.gov), provides an overview of the Town's departments and services and the most current news and information concerning service updates and public safety.

**Social media** shared by the Town will provide urgent information and general news.



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