



2025 ANNUAL REPORT



Presented by:
Grady Miller

Town Manager

 **37622 North Cave Creek Rd.
Cave Creek, AZ 85331**

Mayor *and* Town Council



Robert Morris
MAYOR



Kathryn Royer
VICE MAYOR



Council Member
Tom Aughterton



Council Member
Cynthia Driskell



Council Member
Joe Freedman



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 Director

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

Bowen Larsen
Communications and
Public Affairs Director



2025 Cave Creek Rodeo Days

Town Council Unanimously Approves Budget



The Cave Creek Town Council voted unanimously in favor of the FY26 budget at the June 16, 2025, Town Council meeting. The annual budget, which covers the period of July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026, is capped at \$75,621,547. 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.

Looking at the Future of 4,000 Open Space Acres



The Town Council directed the Town Manager to form an Open Space Ad Hoc Committee to examine the future use and potential acquisition of approximately 4,000 acres of open space zoned Arizona State Trust Land within the town’s boundaries.



Foothills Caring Corp

Town Council Awards Community Grants

The Town of Cave Creek announced the recipients of the annual Community Grants program at the Town Council meeting held on Jan. 7. The Community Grants offers \$40,000 in financial grants, with a maximum request of up to \$10,000, to non-profit 501 c (3) organizations within the Cave Creek and Desert Foothills boundaries. These grants are crucial in safeguarding the community's health, safety, welfare, history, and culture, making a significant difference in the collective well-being.

The Community Grants funds are provided to local, non-profit organizations dedicated to preserving, protecting, educating, and enhancing the community through various programs.

Cave Creek Unified Education Foundation	\$5,000
Desert Foothills Land Trust	\$5,000
Foothills Caring Corps (FCC)	\$5,000
Foothills Food Bank	\$5,000
Sonoran Arts League	\$5,000
Cave Creek Museum	\$3,500
Desert Foothills Library Association	\$3,000
Foothills Community Foundation at the Holland Center	\$1,500
Cave Creek Dark Sky	\$1,500
Jubilate Conservatory of Music	\$1,000
Purse Impressions	\$1,000
The Godspeed Project	\$1,000
Upscale Singers	\$1,000



Town Participates in Keep America Beautiful Campaign

Mayor Robert Morris read a proclamation announcing that Cave Creek is supporting the Greatest American Cleanup campaign. The campaign by KAB seeks 25,000 communities across the USA to commit to being clean for America's 250th Birthday celebration on July 4, 2026.



Cave Creek Lands Turquoise Circuit Finals

The Pro Rodeo Cowboys Association (PRCA) has selected Cave Creek Rodeo Grounds as its new Turquoise Circuit Finals Rodeo location. Comprised of rodeos and athletes in New Mexico and Arizona, the Turquoise Circuit is part of the circuit system devised by the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association. After the regular season, top competitors from each event qualify to compete at the circuit finals rodeo.





Skybox at Cave Creek Rodeo Grounds

Cave Creek Rodeo Days Agrees to Reimburse Town for New Skybox



The Town entered into a repayment agreement with the Cave Creek Rodeo Days organization for the construction of a new skybox at the Rodeo Grounds. This project was completed prior to the Cave Creek Rodeo held in March. According to the agreement, Cave Creek Rodeo Days is required to repay the Town a total of \$515,000 in seven annual installments for the construction of the skybox.

Town Holds Community Business Meeting



In November 2024, Town Staff and the Mayor held an open forum for business owners and residents to speak directly with and ask questions of Town staff and several town council members. Topics included water resources for the Town, visitor attractions, especially the annual Bike Week and Cave Creek Rodeo Days, and parking for many of the events.



Spur Cross Ranch a Local Landmark

Local Landmarks Recognized

The Town of Cave Creek, in partnership with the Cave Creek Museum, recognized and celebrated 5 places being designated as Local Landmarks: Cave Creek Regional Park, Cave Creek Memorial Arena and Rodeo Grounds, Spur Cross Ranch Conservation Area, Desert Awareness Park and Black Mountain Trail Summit. The Development Services Director serves on the Cave Creek Museum Local Landmark Committee to assist with historical input and context while the program continues under the management of Cave Creek Museum.



Spur Cross Ranch Conservation Area - January 23, 2025

Pictured L-R, Director Maricopa County Parks and Recreation, **Jennifer Waller**, Spur Cross Park Supervisor **Kevin Smith**, and **Mayor Morris**

Other Local Landmarks in 24/25



Cave Creek Memorial Arena
- March 20, 2025



Black Mountain Trailhead
- November 21, 2024



Desert Awareness Park
- October 31, 2024



Cave Creek Regional Park
- February 20, 2025

Development Services

Foothills Food Bank May 22, 2025

Foothills Food Bank and Town Working Together



The Foothills Food Bank held its long-awaited grand opening on May 22, 2025. 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. Staff from the Town and the Food Bank started meeting in late 2021 to discuss a suitable commercial property for expanding the Food Bank's facilities. By the fall of 2022, the Town and the Food Bank agreed to a memorandum of understanding, under which the Town leases land to the Food Bank in exchange for a tenant lease of a portion of the facility.

Tourism Bureau Relocation



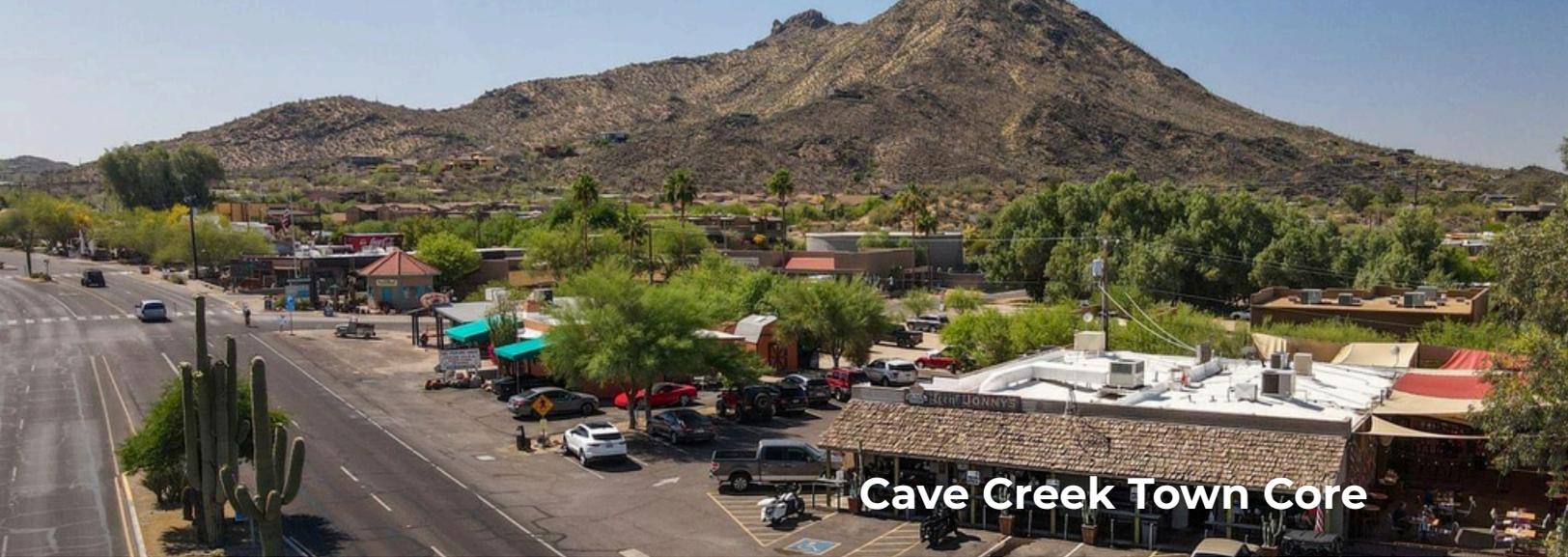
The Cave Creek Tourism Bureau moved to a new location that is in a more visible for visitors and locals, alike on Cave Creek Road. Located at 6528 E. Cave Creek Road, west of the Dairy Queen.

2025 Stats for the Tourism Bureau:

Volunteers: 32

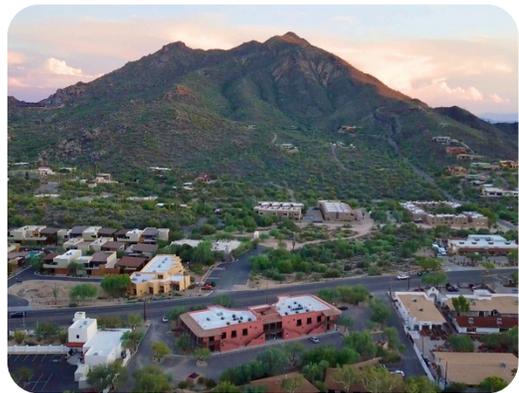
Volunteer Hrs.: 1169.5

Visitors Helped: 1,048



2025 Town Core Plan Approved

The Town Council approved the 2025 Town Core Plan. The Town Core Plan was the result of nearly two years' effort to solicit input from stakeholders and is a comprehensive plan that includes utility, streets, pathways, parking, and landscaping goals within the Town Core.



Town Medians Replanted

Working with landscape consultants, the Town prepared a project scope and the Town Council selected a company to begin the regeneration of the landscaping within the medians in the Town Core. The project included reshaping, import of native rock and select native trees as well as hydroseeding. This work commenced in January and was completed by February.





Focus on the Family Marriage Center

Development Services by the Numbers



The Town of Cave Creek processed 406 permits in Fiscal Year 2025 (07/24-06/25) adding a total valuation of \$48,956,612 of new buildings and structures both commercial and residential. The Development Services Department conducted over 5,253 inspections during the same period.

Town Hires New Building Official



After a long recruitment process, Development Services was able to hire a new Chief Building Official, Adam Hicks. Hicks previously served in the same capacity with Coconino County and has implemented new policies and procedural adjustments to better serve and react to customer and contractor needs.

Infrastructure - Utility Services



Water Storage Tank

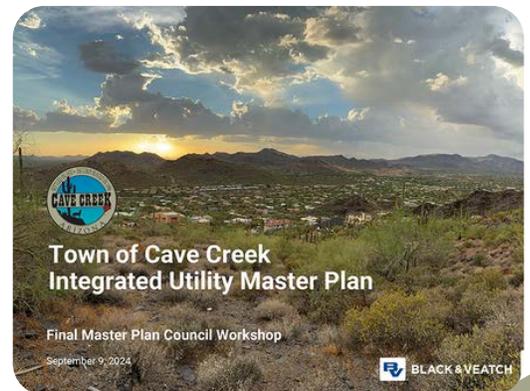
Phoenix Interconnect Project

The Town is currently constructing a new water interconnect site in collaboration with the City of Phoenix. This facility will allow the delivery of up to 1.4 million gallons of treated Central Arizona Project (CAP) water per day, which is approximately half of the peak daily water demands. The project includes a new one-million-gallon storage and dual zone booster facility located at the southwest corner of Cave Creek Road and El Sendero Drive. The project is expected to be completed in the latter half of 2026. Once finished, it will provide the Town with a second source of treated CAP water, enhancing the system's reliability and redundancy for improved delivery capabilities.



Updated Integrated Master Plan

The Town adopted a new Integrated Utility Master Plan to become the planning framework for managing and improving the Town's water and wastewater systems. The Town desires to integrate and optimize its water resources, water, wastewater, and reclaimed water infrastructure for long-term system resiliency.





Bartlett Dam

Verde Reservoirs Sediment Mitigation Project

In 2024, the Town joined the new Verde Reservoirs Sediment Mitigation Project. In partnership with the Salt River Project (SRP) and 22 municipal, tribal, and agricultural partners working with the Bureau of Reclamation, the Town is participating in a feasibility study to evaluate how to raise and expand the Bartlett reservoir, located on the Verde River. The new storage volume created by the dam expansions could provide the Town with a new surface water resource and a long-term solution to the future reductions in the Colorado River water supply.



Utilities Department by the Numbers

The Town's Utilities Department operates two systems, serving approximately 4,400 Cave Creek and Desert Hills customers. The Town also operates a wastewater system that serves approximately 940 customers. This year, the Town upgraded the Cave Creek water meters, and now 60 percent of accounts can see daily usage data. Town Council continues to invest resources to build and maintain the systems to ensure a sustainable water supply for residents and businesses. Preparing for the expected allocation cuts to Colorado River supplies in 2027 is a central priority for the department.



Infrastructure - Public Works

Roadwork Awareness Sign on 32nd Street

Road Improvements a Top Priority for Town

The Town of Cave Creek Public Works Department repaired and improved roads as part of the 2020 Pavement Management Plan. Completing these road projects contribute to a measurable improvement of the overall inventory of Cave Creek roads as identified in the Town Council's Strategic Plan Goals.

The Public Works Department contracted with Infrastructure Management Services (IMS) to determine a pavement condition index (PCI) to identify the current condition of all paved roadways within the town, recommend projects to improve the town's roads, and provide a baseline for measuring the condition of the town's streets for future years.

IMS evaluated 96 miles of roadway condition data through its survey to quantify pavement surface distresses' type, severity, and quality, including cracking and rutting.

Town Council unanimously approved two contracts totaling \$1,505,362.61 to repair and improve portions of 19 town roads FY 2025.





Yard Waste Drop-off Days Helps Residents

Fire Prevention Yard Cleanup Awareness Yields Results

Yard waste, such as weeds, leaves, brush, and small branches that are around your home, could be the primary source of wildfire fuel. To support the community in creating defensible space in their yards for fire prevention, the Town of Cave Creek held two drop-off events for residents to discard green waste.



Date	Tons	Vehicles	Cost Savings*
3/15/25	20.46	125+	\$5,406.30
4/19/25	33.48	113+	\$3,887.20

(*Estimated Total Container and Dumping Costs)

Town Upgrades Crosswalks for Pedestrian Safety

The Town added solar-powered flashing beacon crosswalk signs on Cave Creek Road to help alert drivers to pedestrians crossing the road.



Public Safety



Tonto National Forest Firefighter Watches Over Fire

New Fire Station Opened in FY'25

The Town of Cave Creek and Daisy Mountain Fire District held a ribbon-cutting on December 10, 2024, for the newly remodeled fire station. The 9,676 sq. ft. facility houses a new 1,500-gallon fire engine, a 3,000-gallon water tanker, a brush truck, a trail ATV, and an ambulance. The Town of Cave Creek owns the equipment and the building, while the Daisy Mountain Fire District provides the firefighters.



Cave Creek Fire Department Held Wildfire Preparedness Meetings

With the state's years-long drought, there is no longer a "wildfire season." Fires can happen year-round, which is why the Town of Cave Creek stresses the importance of prevention. The Cave Creek Fire Department hosted two community meetings to discuss the town's preparedness for any wildfires in our area. In addition to the Cave Creek Fire Department, Daisy Mountain Fire District and the Tonto National Forest provided representatives at these meetings to provide information.



Public Safety

Fire Crews Watch Over the 2025 Cahava Fire at Night

Combating Opioid Misuse Through Education



As part of an agreement with Maricopa County and the Arizona Attorney General, the Town of Cave Creek will receive \$168,000 in One Arizona Plan—Opioid Reimbursement Funds to provide education and support local programs that combat opioid misuse. The Town distributes these funds to the Foothills Caring Corps and the Cave Creek Unified School District for its opioid education and prevention programs.

By the numbers: Total Calls: 776

Emergency Medical: 563

Fire: 93

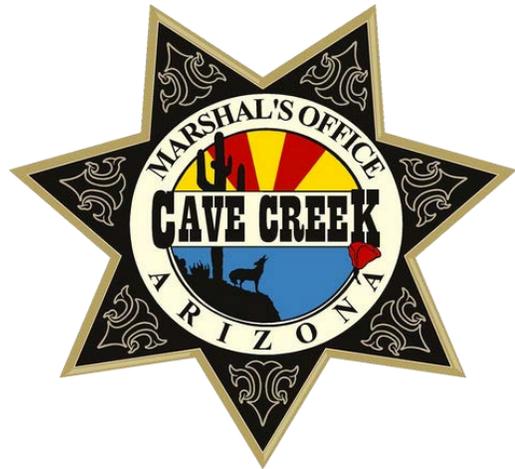
Special Duty/Service Calls: 96

Trail/Haz Mat: 24



MCSO and Town Marshal Protect the Community

The Town of Cave Creek has Marshal Stein, who has been our Marshal for over 24 years. The Town also has a contract with the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office for Law Enforcement services. Marshal Stein provides community policing services to our Town and surrounding residents. The Marshal is responsible for conducting speed surveys throughout the Town and identifying areas that may benefit from increased traffic enforcement. This year, Marshal Stein concentrated on slowing traffic that was driving through the town core to encourage drivers to reduce their speed before entering the town core. During this increased enforcement period, Marshal Stein and the MCSO deputies also concentrated on drivers who failed to yield to pedestrians within our crosswalks. By focusing on slowing traffic and raising awareness about pedestrian safety, Cave Creek is a safer community. Marshal Stein also organizes and manages safety for special events within our Town, particularly Rodeos, Bike Week, and our annual Rodeo Days Parade. Marshal Stein fingerprints residents for employment purposes, deploys the Town's speed trailers, and is in charge of Emergency Management for the Town of Cave Creek in addition to his law enforcement duties.

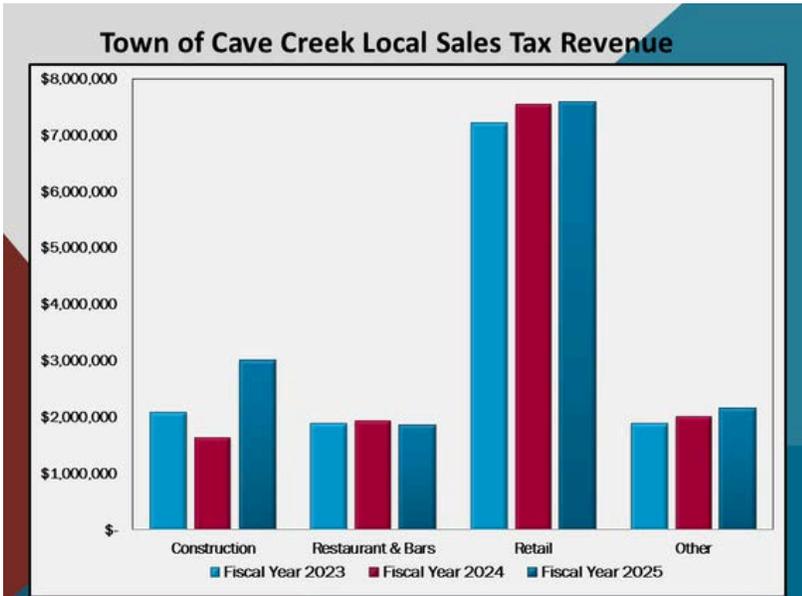


- **85 Traffic Stops for traffic violations**
- **57 Citations for Town Code violations**
- **18 speed surveys and deployed speed trailers 32 times**
- **150 investigations spanning Criminal and Civil matters**

Finance

Iconic Black Mountain Part of Town's Identity

- 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 increased approximately 11%, primarily a result of an 84% increase in construction sales taxes. Retail sales tax was relatively flat, restaurant and bar sales tax decreased approximately 4% due to corrections for taxpayer errors, and there was a 6% increase in other miscellaneous sales taxes.



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 **5 consecutive years**

Finance

Iconic Black Mountain Part of Town's Identity

Revised Town User Fees

The Town Council adopted a resolution to adjust user fees and enacted an ordinance to amend the Town Code during its meeting on December 2, 2024. The new fee schedule took effect on February 1, 2025.

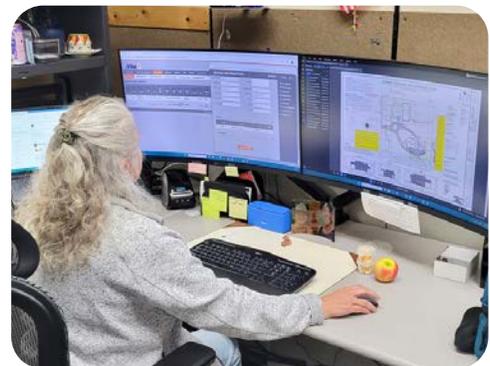
To evaluate and recommend user fees, the Town contracted with Willdan Financial Services. The study focused on non-utility user fees and aimed for 100% cost recovery. Willdan compared these fees to those of other municipalities that are similar to Cave Creek, including Carefree, Scottsdale, Phoenix, Fountain Hills, and Paradise Valley. Due to its smaller size, Cave Creek is less able to achieve the same economies of scale as larger municipalities.

In many cases, higher-level town employees carry out tasks that would typically be handled by lower-level positions in other municipalities. For some services, the firm recommended charging full or near-full cost recovery. In contrast, for other fees, a lower subsidized rate was suggested to reduce the financial burden on customers.

The Town will periodically review and adjust user fees as necessary to account for annual inflation. To view the User Fee Study and supporting documentation, please visit www.cavecreekaz.gov/User-Fees.



Town of Cave Creek Comprehensive Fee Schedule As of February 1, 2025	
Description	
Engineer's Cost Estimate	
Fourth and Subsequent Reviews	
Revisions to Approved Plans	
Inspections - request form must be submitted, one-hour minimum	
Commercial Site Plans:	
Pre-Application	
Grading/Drainage & Utility Site Plan	
Other Fees	
Drainage Report	
Traffic Study:	
Outside Consultant	
In House - 2-hour minimum	
Storm Water Management Plan (SWMP)	
Engineer's Cost Estimate	
Map of Dedication - right-of-way, easements, etc	
Infrastructure Plans, within dedicated or proposed Town rights-of-way or public easements	





www.cavecreekaz.gov

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