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## **THUNDERBIRD CONSERVATION PARK TRAILS RECEIVING A MAKEOVER**

**GLENDALE, Ariz.** – Hikers, bikers and equestrians will find a smoother path during their outdoor adventures thanks to a \$44,000 grant from Arizona State Parks that is going to spruce up trails at one of Glendale’s most popular parks. Trail improvements have begun at Thunderbird Conservation Park and are expected to continue until mid-January.

The trail maintenance will be concentrated on five trails in the park (H-2, H-2A, H-3, H-3A and H-4) and provide approximately six miles of improvements. YRU Contracting, based out of Idaho, will complete the trail maintenance. The company has built and maintained over 700 miles of trails and constructed 20 major trail bridges in 15 states. The trail maintenance includes boulder removal, leveling, installation of erosion control features and retaining walls and infilling with native materials.

Trail notices and signs will be posted at each end of the trail work site to warn hikers of the trail work ahead. Work will be done on the trails from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sunday through Friday, with a break on Saturdays.

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## **GLENDALE TRAIL IMPROVEMENTS**

### **Add 1-1-1**

The grant comes from the Recreation Trails Program, a component of the Federal Highway Administration's surface transportation bill. The funds are awarded to various governmental agencies and administered by Arizona State Parks through their State Recreation Trails Maintenance program. The city of Glendale provides a 10 percent in-kind match for the project. This is the fifth time Glendale has received this funding, bringing the five-year total to \$264,224 used to improve the trails at the 1,185-acre Thunderbird Conservation Park.

The 15.6 miles of trails in Thunderbird Conservation Park are a component of the 110-mile Maricopa County Historic Sun Circle Trail system that serves multiple cities in the Valley. The park's multi-use trails accommodate hikers, mountain bikers and equestrians. Improved tread surface was one of the priorities of Glendale's citizens and noted in the comprehensive master plan completed for the park in 2006.

"Thanks to this federal grant and previous grants we are better able to meet national and state trail standards while providing a safer and more enjoyable recreational experience to the park users," stated Erik Strunk, Glendale's Parks, Recreation and Library Services executive director.

A notebook for trail user comments will be available on site for users to convey their thoughts about the trail maintenance program and the work being accomplished. For more information about Thunderbird Conservation Park, visit [www.glendaleaz.com/parksandrecreation](http://www.glendaleaz.com/parksandrecreation).

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