

Message from the City Manager

Mayor and Council, to keep you more informed of what is occurring in the City, I plan to post this monthly General Information newsletter that highlights notable items, upcoming agenda items for Council meetings and other meetings and events.

Notable Items:

- Parks and Recreation
 - Conversion of Quail Fields to Multi-Use Fields: LED lighting installation is expected to begin in November 2022 at the five existing ball fields and the rodeo arena. Willcox does not currently charge youth sporting leagues to use fields. With continual increases in costs for lighting, the city will be developing fees for use. With LED lighting, the costs are estimated to decrease by 60-80%. These lights will ensure costs remain as low and reasonable as possible.

For Quail Park, additional lights will be added to change the shape of the fields to square. This will allow Quail Park to be more inclusive towards soccer, football, baseball, and other activities who have continued to grow in membership.



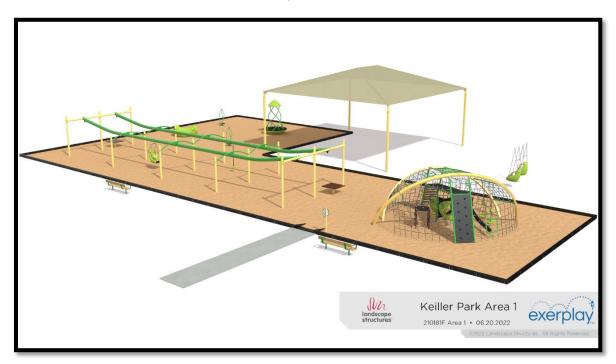


<u>City Pool:</u> Over the past several years, city staff have been working to repair and/or replace the pool. Repairing the pool was estimated to cost the same, if not more than replacing the pool. Repairs would include significant updates to meet ADA compliance, replacement of piping underneath the pool, installation of new pumps and filtration systems, and decking. Based on these costs, it was determined the best option was to build a new pool.

The City was able to secure \$656,300 through grant funding with the Arizona State Parks Department that would require a 50% match for a total budget of \$1,312,600. Unfortunately, construction costs have continued to increase. The new estimated pool budget is at \$2,226,000. City staff are pursuing additional funding sources from other grants to make up the difference. Through donations by community members and businesses, \$55,000 of \$100,000 has been raised for a pool slide.

If the City was unable to raise the full amount needed aspects of the project would be removed from the pool budget such as landscaping, ramadas, sections of decking and the size of the slide. The pool concept is inclusive towards many ages and demographics and includes a slide, diving board, lap lanes, and a zero-entry area for toddlers. Outside of the pool is also a spray park that would be built outside of the pool area that would be accessible during non-operating hours. Please see attachment.

 Playground Equipment: New playground equipment has been ordered and is expected to be installed late October/early November 2022.





- Event Center: Attached is a letter from Susan Paper regarding the event center. An excerpt reads "Thanks to the generous support from our community, we are making great progress in raising funds to construct the Event Center at Quail Park. To date we have raised \$402,900 in donations and pledges, plus additional support through pledged in-kind services and supplies. Ninety percent of this will be matched with a grant from Arizona State Parks and Trails. The budget submitted to State Parks in June of 2021 included \$484,000 for the building materials. The estimated quote we received in March of 2021 was for \$432,000. Unfortunately, it took longer than expected to get final approval on the grant funds from the Federal level and the funds were not approved until March 2022. During this time steel prices and building materials dramatically increased due to raw material and capacity issues. We requested bids for materials in April/May 2022. The low bid received was \$732,748, almost 70% more than the previous year. The bids were rejected since they were all over the funds available. Ter rejecting the bids, we felt it was important to do our due diligence and be good stewards of the funds we are holding by further consulting various experts in the steel building construction field. We then made the strategic decision to delay the project until steel prices decrease and hopefully stabilize some. We received word this week that the price has come down \$60,000. We will continue to monitor these steel prices and await the opportune time to request bids once again. We anticipate going back out to bid by the end of the year. We also have a project consultant keeping an eye out for used/never erected (cancelled) buildings like our planned event center design as an alternative that could be purchased at less cost. We may need to modify the building plans to build what we can currently afford, while we continue to secure additional funds."
- <u>Willcox School Shutdowns:</u> During the week of September 12, the Willcox Police Department initiated two school lockdowns. The first was the result of an armed robbery across from the school and the second was what turned out to be a hoax of a student with a gun on campus. The Willcox Police Department and Cochise Sheriff's Office responded to both incidents. To continue to improve, Mayor Laws, Chief Hadfield, City Manager Blaschke, Superintendent Davis, Cochise County staff, will be reviewing our incident command procedures and opportunities for improvement. Additional community members will also be asked to participate on the task force. If you know of community members who would like to participate, please direct them to Chief Hadfield.
- Road Improvements. With the monsoons coming to an end, staff will be repairing potholes
 throughout the rest of September and October. Staff will also be working towards improving
 Ironwood Street. This process will involve pulverizing the existing street, grading and chip
 sealing the surface. Sections of the curb will also be replaced. Staff is also evaluating installing a
 storm drainage system, but installation will be determined by available funds.



- Marketing and Tourism: The City received a grant award for \$250,000 with a 20% match requirement from the Arizona Office of Tourism. The funding is to install new and refurbish bird watching areas around Cochise Lake. Funding will also be used to repair existing wells to ensure water is available

This past year, a record number of Sandhill Cranes, over 45,000, landed in and around Willcox. Birding continues to draw visitors to Southeast Arizona. These areas promote visitation to and around Willcox and strengthen Willcox's economic base.

In recent years, water that is crucial for the migratory bird's food system has been going dry. In the past, wells were utilized to fill Cochise Lake year-round, however, these wells were discontinued and since then the machinery has long become inoperable and the well casing is failing. Rehabilitating these wells will help keep the area a marsh that will allow the migratory cranes and other food sources to flourish and will keep birds returning each year and ultimately birders to the area who will spend money and improve the economy.

Public Safety: On September 21, 2022, Agents with the Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco, and Firearms (A.T.F.) with the assistance of the Willcox Police Department, Cochise County Sheriff's Department, Arizona Department of Public Safety served a search warrant near West Henry Street and North Douglas Avenue and during the execution of a federal search warrant, evidence of bomb making was located. The suspect, Ronald Stroud 30 of Willcox, was arrested and taken into custody on numerous felony charges.

This incident began when a report of a pipe bomb exploded around 100 North Curtis Avenue late night on September 18th. Officers with the Willcox Police Department were advised by a homeowner of the location of the device detonation, and they found material, components, and fragmentation consistent with the deployment of a PVC pipe bomb. Officers secured the area and contacted the A.T.F., who responded to the site and assisted with the on-scene investigations. Officers with the Willcox Police Department and A.T.F. began gathering evidence through various camera footage in the area and identified a white Cadillac as the suspect vehicle. Additionally, the Cadillac was captured on local surveillance video and Mr. Stroud was observed exiting the vehicle near the site of the offense. Mr. Stroud was named as a suspect and was placed under surveillance.

Agents with the A.T.F. presented the case to the U.S. Attorney's Office and it was determined there was probable cause to request a search warrant, which was granted by a federal judge. The search warrant was executed on September 21 and evidence was located during the search warrant. Mr. Stroud was arrested on various felony offenses and booked into the Cochise County Jail.



Upcoming Meetings and Agenda Items:

- October 6 Cemetery Committee Meeting 4:00 PM City Council Chambers
- October 20 City Council Meeting
 - o City Pool Contract Award
 - Cemetery Policy

Upcoming Events:

- Art in the Yard Sat, Sep 24 Sun, Sep 25 8660 N Layton Rd Willcox, AZ
- Rex Allen Days Thu, Sep 29 Sun, Oct 2
 - o 29 SEP 40th Annual Willcox Cowboy Hall of Fame Dinner
- ➤ Willcox Wine Festival Fall 2022 Fri, Oct 14 Sun, Oct 16

Please let me know if you have any questions.

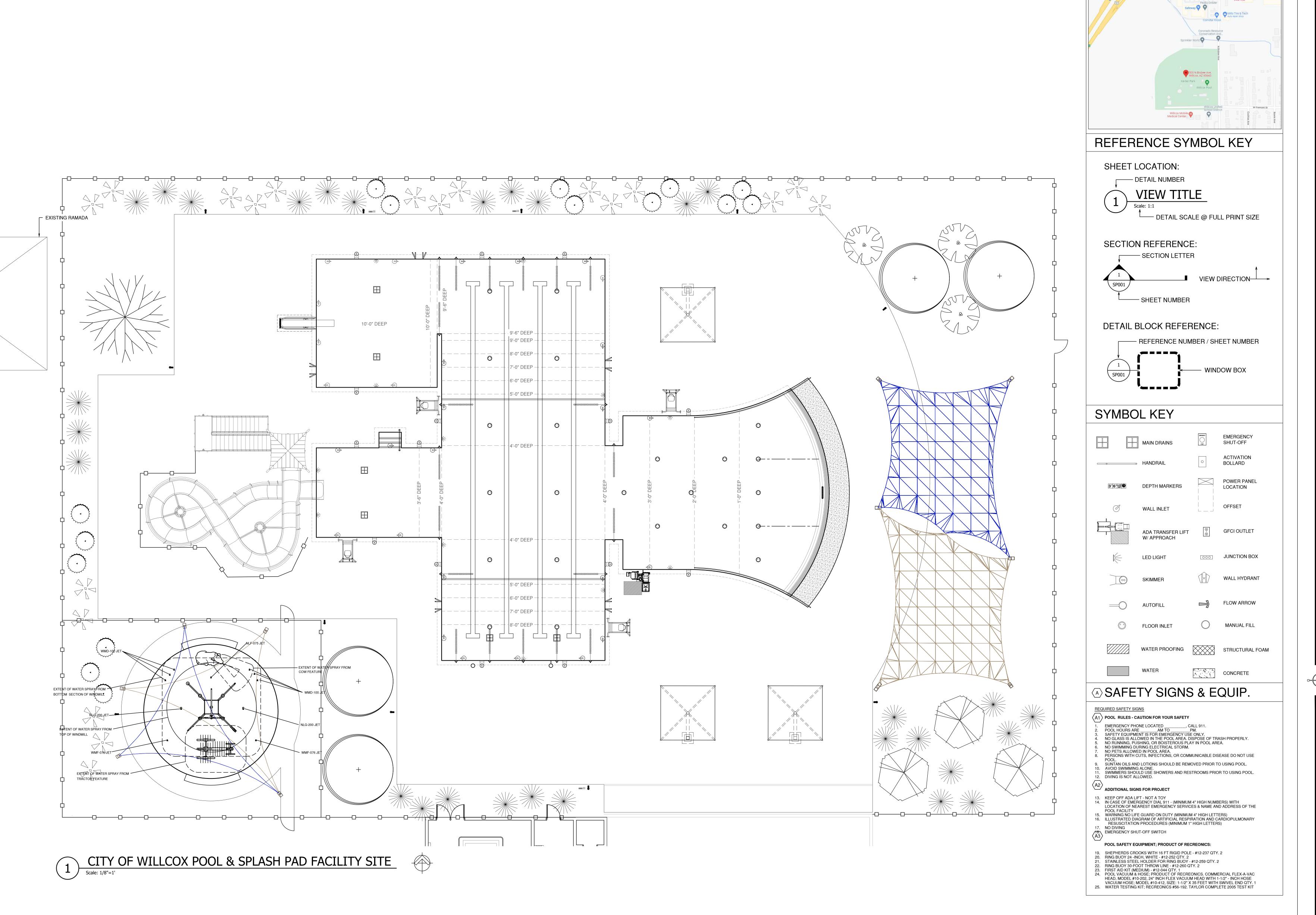
Willcox City Manager, Caleb Blaschke

Mohale



Sport Field Conversion Concept





VICINITY MAP

POOL PA

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ESI TIONAL

DRAWN BY: JM, MN & CN

CHECKED BY: AA & TS 07/27/22 SCALE: **VARIES**

DRAWING NAME: CITY OF WILLCOX



Willcox Farm, Ranch, & Youth Event Center at Quail Park, Willcox AZ

Thanks to the generous support from our community, we are making great progress in raising funds to construct the Event Center at Quail Park. To date we have raised \$402,900 in donations and pledges, plus additional support through pledged in-kind services and supplies. Ninety percent of this will be matched with a grant from Arizona State Parks and Trails.

The budget submitted to State Parks in June of 2021 included \$484,000 for the building materials. The estimated quote we received in March of 2021 was for \$432,000. Unfortunately, it took longer than expected to get final approval on the grant funds from the Federal level and the funds were not approved until March 2022. During this time steel prices and building materials dramatically increased due to raw material and capacity issues. We requested bids for materials in April/May 2022. The low bid received was \$732,748, almost 70% more than the previous year. The bids were rejected since they were all over the funds available.

After rejecting the bids, we felt it was important to do our due diligence and be good stewards of the funds we are holding by further consulting various experts in the steel building construction field. We then made the strategic decision to delay the project until steel prices decrease and hopefully stabilize some. We received word this week that the price has come down \$60,000. We will continue to monitor these steel prices and await the opportune time to request bids once again.

We anticipate going back out to bid by the end of the year. We also have a project consultant keeping an eye out for used/never erected (cancelled) buildings similar to our planned event center design as an alternative that could be purchased at less cost. We may need to modify the building plans to build what we can currently afford, while we continue to secure additional funds.

In the meantime, we will continue working to secure additional funds until we meet somewhere in the middle with prices coming down and securing additional funds. If you know of others who might want to participate and invest in this exciting project, we would appreciate you sharing the enclosed information or hearing from you.

But rest assured we are making progress. We strive to deliver a facility that will bring new and exciting opportunities to our community and one that will exceed your expectations. We thank you for your continued support, understanding, and extraordinary patience.

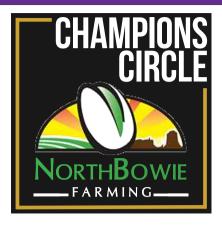
Please email us at wxeventcenter@gmail.com or call Dwayne Owen 520-507-6265 or Susan Pater 520-507-5939 with any questions.

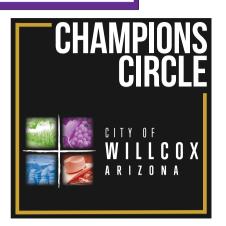
WILLCOX FARM, RANCH, & YOUTH EVENT CENTER

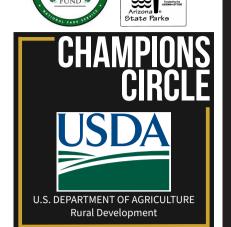
LEADERSHIP CIRCLE

\$100,000 Plus - Naming opportunities available









MATCHING FUNDS



























MOREMAN FAMILY IN MEMORY OF **BEN & RUTH MOREMAN**









Your name/logo could be here

































SILVER



SILVER

Bonita Ranch Inc JEFF HOMACK

GOLD





GOLD



WILLCOX DAIRY OUEEN

THREE RIVERS AG

Investments

Oak Ranch

SILVER ACE HARDWARE Willcox

SILVER

The Hogue Family

AMS Insurance LLC

SILVER

John B. Riggs, AIA

TINGLE FARMS

Cochise County SHERIFF'S ASSIST TEAM



BRONZE

CIMARRON RANCH

Andrew & Echo Hacker Anonymous **Curt Peters** Double S Steakhouse Douglas Dunn/Donna Gaab Southwest Gas **Toby & Cathy Collins Trails West Tractor** Westlawn Chapel & Mortuary Willcox High School Rodeo

SUPPORTERS

Anonymous Ashley Finley: Mesquite Ranch Realty **Bales Livestock** Baxter Black D Fenn Enterprises Hurtado Ranch Mary Peterson & Bear Carman Shane & Patina Thompson Sierra Lumber LLC

FRIENDS

Anonymous Gary & Janice Graham Jerry & Debbie Sunderland Kuhn Ranch Steve & Shirley Seplak Zarpara Vineyard

Your Amazing Response is Appreciated!

BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE AT QUAIL DRIVE SPORTS PARK

We envision a regional multi-use park right here in Willcox that will promote the community and spur economic development.

We are proceeding with a phased construction approach with the initial size/style of the building being dependent on funds and in-kind services secured.



Our phase one goal is to provide a 225' x 250' multipurpose open-air steel building including electrical installation that we can begin using while we continue to raise funds for additional enhancements. This will be followed by restrooms, landscaping, and a meeting/conference facility. Simultaneously, the City is renovating the ball fields, lighting, fencing, and current restroom facilities as part of the Quail Park Master Plan, as well as multiple improvements to Keiller Park including a new swimming pool and spray park.

The projects are being implemented by bringing together public, private, and non-profit resources from within and outside the city limits. Individuals and businesses within the greater Willcox area understand and support having a strong community with amenities to attract and retain a quality workforce.

The Event Center project is like an old fashioned "barn raising" with everyone coming together and contributing what they can to get the job done. Please consider how you can support this effort.

HOW YOU CAN HELP!

- ✓ **Share this information** with others you know who might want to participate and invest in this exciting project.
- ✓ Already a donor? Please review the donor listing attached and email us at <u>wxeventcenter@gmail.com</u> with any changes needed. Has your logo changed, or would you like different wording? We plan to order signage and start construction of the donor wall in early October.
- ✓ **Consider making an annual contribution** to move from one contribution level to the next. Recognition is cumulative for gifts and in-kind contributions.
- ✓ If you have not yet contributed, there are numerous ways to give. Choose the way that works best for you. Consider one-time or multi-year gifts, provide a tribute to honor someone special by making a gift in their name, leave a legacy gift for the future with a bequest or beneficiary designation, or support the Event Center with a Qualified Charitable Distribution from Your IRA. Contact us if you would like to discuss the various options.
- ✓ Shop at AmazonSmile. You can designate us on at smile.amazon.com/ch/82-4260844 as your charity of choice and 0.5% of your eligible purchases will be donated to the Champions for Youth Foundation (DBA Willcox Event Center).
- ✓ **eBay for Charity** If you choose to sell your old or new items on eBay for Charity, you can select Champions for Youth Foundation dba Willcox Event Center as a beneficiary of all or a portion of the selling amount.
- ✓ **In-kind opportunities** by providing construction services, volunteer labor, or equipment donations.

REASONS TO SUPPORT THIS EFFORT ARE MANY:

Cultural Heritage: Our rich and fascinating ranching and agricultural heritage is enhanced by providing a quality venue.

Community Engagement:

Events provide opportunities for participation, skills development, volunteering, and social, cultural, and economic developments.

Economic Impact: The Event Center will attract new events and visitors to the city positively affecting the local economy.

Investment in the Future of Willcox: One that will live on and benefit the community.

GET INVOLVED.

wxeventcenter@gmail.com www.championsaz.org/wec Dwayne Owen 520.507.6265 Susan Pater 520.507.9295

GET INSPIRED,

CONTACT:

SPONSORSHIP

We offer a variety of partner levels. Every contribution makes a difference. Recognition is cumulative for gifts and in-kind given.



LEADERSHIP CIRCLE \$100,000 Plus	 Extra-large sign with logo permanently on donor wall Naming opportunities Logo on social media and linked logo on website 		
CHAMPIONS CIRCLE \$50,000	 Large sign with logo permanently on donor wall Logo on social media and linked logo on website 		
PLATINUM \$10,000	 Medium sign with logo permanently on donor wall Logo on social media and linked logo on website 		
GOLD \$5,000	Small sign with logo permanently on donor wallLogo on social media and linked logo on website		
SILVER \$1,000	Individual name plate on donor wallLogo on social media and linked logo on website		
Bronze \$500	Name on social media and websiteName listed on donor wall		
SUPPORTERS \$250	Name on social media and websiteName listed on donor wall		
Friends \$100	Name on social mediaName listed on donor wall		

Don't see what you are looking for? Let's talk customization.

We value and accept estate gifts. A planned gift is a lasting investment and gift to sustain the Event Center for the benefit of our community.

DONATION/MULTI-YEAR GIFT INTENTION FORM

Yes, I/we want to support the		onating a total gi	ι οι ఫ	•	
Donation made payable to Willco	x Event Center is enclosed.				
☐ I will go online to https://www.ch	nampionsaz.org/donatewec a	ind make a payme	nt via PayPal c	r credit card.	
\square I wish to have this donation made	e over 🗌 1 year 🔲 2 yea	rs \square 3years			
☐ I wish to make payments of \$	Annually	Semi-annually	Quarterly	Monthly	
☐ Please remind me by: ☐ e-mail	\square mail \square phone call				
It is my wish to be recognized for the	gift as follows:				
☐ Name to be recognized:					
\square I prefer that my gift remain and	onymous.				
\square Please designate my gift \square In F	Honor or \square In Memory:				
Name of person completing this form	າ:				
Address:	City:		State	_ Zip:	
E-mail address:		Daytime Phone:			