

# PROSE

## PARKS, RECREATION, OPEN SPACE, AND EVENTS

July & August 2022

### Director Reflection

Welcome to the inaugural edition of the Parks, Recreation, Open Space, and Events (PROSE) Division monthly newsletter. In these newsletters, we will cover updates on projects that we have been working on, meaningful data that we have collected, and exciting things that will be coming soon. We believe that our public lands and community recreation centers are at the epicenter of Flagstaff and our quality of life. We take our commitment to these spaces seriously, and endeavor to provide the services, recreation, and natural spaces our residents and visitors need to have fun, relax, have healthy lifestyles, and enjoy everything we have to offer.

-Rebecca Sayers, PROSE Director



### Project Highlight

Parks crews were hard at work this summer installing a new play structure at Thorpe Park. The structure is designed for children ages 2-5 and includes a shade structure to help beat the heat, slides, an escalated climb, and even a musical component.



#### Celebration of Service!

Lynold Herder - Parks Supervisor - 10 years

#### Promotions!

Robert Wallace - Open Space Supervisor

David Todirita - Parks Technician

LaReina Reyes - Athletics Recreation Coordinator 1

David Carolus - Jay Lively Recreation Coordinator 2

# Parks



## Trail Counts

Summer time brings our users outdoors in full force. Our FUTS and Open Space Trail Counters never fail to amaze with around 20,000 users for the month of July. Staff will install three additional counters this fall.

## Buffalo Park Accessible Trail

A pilot trial of the overall operation for the Buffalo Park/Nate Avery Accessibility Trail reconstruction (grant funded) project took place in July. Parks staff accomplished nearly 500 linear feet (LF) of the trail reconstruction. This project will be one to celebrate at the end providing full accessibility for all our community and visitors.



# Recreation



## Parks and Recreation Month

July kept recreation staff on their toes with an array of exciting events and activities in celebration of Parks and Recreation Month. All of our recreation centers participated with a highlight event along with featured programming to engage our community. Our team at Hal Jensen hosted Touch a Truck, a true showcase of the partnerships our staff establish within the city. Jay Lively hosted the Mountain Mash-Up Hockey Tournament, a perfect escape from the summer heat. With summer heat comes additional time in the water, but not to worry, our staff at the Aquaplex hosted a Water Safety Day which provided participants with basic water safety skills and strategies. And if you were still looking to beat the heat the Joe C. Montoya Senior Center was the place to be on July 18 for an ice cream social.



# Open Space



## Bug Safari!

In partnership with the Arizona Watchable Wildlife Experience, Parks and Open Space hosted a Bug Safari at Frances Short Pond free to the public! It was enjoyed by over 100 members of the community. Adults and children alike learned about the biodiversity of arthropods and the role they play in the natural world.

## Volunteers Rock!

Over the past several months, volunteers from Working Alternatives Inc removed old downed barbed wire from areas at Picture Canyon; in the process, they also found sheets of metal and old tractor-trailer tires, which they hauled out the main trail. Volunteers relocated those tires to the County Tire Yard, and several truckloads of old wire to the dump.



# Events



Concerts in the Park wrapped up in July with a season for the books. This season staff prioritized serving the community with moves to new locations, additional community partners, and some of the best music around. A big thank you to our friends at Coconino County Parks and Recreation for the beginning of a wonderful partnership!

The Events team in partnership with Tourism and Plated Projects created the path for the first laser light show at the Lights on the Lawn event on Independence Day. The crowd filled in the golf course with ooo's and ahh's as the sun went down and the lights began. The movement away from fireworks and towards laser lights was prompted last year after another fireworks cancellation and impending fire restrictions. Staff and our partners with Plated Projects are very happy to have brought a new experience to our community this Fourth.

