

PROSE

PARKS, RECREATION, OPEN SPACE, AND EVENTS

January 2023



Parks Manager

Congratulations to Gino Leoni (right) on his recent promotion to Parks Manager!

Gino has been working with the City of Flagstaff Parks Section for 16-years and has additional years served in Parks and Open Space in his home state of Pennsylvania. Gino's knowledge, teamwork, and effective communication all contributed to his role change, but most importantly, it's his up-to-the-challenge mantra that moves us all to mimic his lead.

Recreation Manager

Congratulations to Tyrone Johnson (left) on his recent promotion to Recreation Manager!

Tyrone has been with the City of Flagstaff for over 23-years most recently in the capacity of Recreation Supervisor. Tyrone's knowledge, problem-solving mantra and effective communication all aided in his promotion but it's his passion for Recreation and community services that shines through.

Parks



Just as the new year horns were blown a winter snow event kicked off 2023 for the Parks team. Over Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday, a large snow event froze the city bringing in over 3-feet of snow over multiple days. The team continues to work the white stuff with responsibilities that range from plowing parking lots to sidewalks at City facilities, to Heritage Square, to hauling out of downtown, to performing a courtesy berm removal program for eligible residents.

The team may be small at this time, but the hearts and aptitude are beyond large. The job of snow operations many times is thankless when moving around in the early morning hours watching the sun rise. Be sure to thank your colleagues for the intensive labor they perform to keep our town safe.

Recreation

January is the beginning of a new year which often brings new goals of health and wellness to the community. Each of our four recreation centers support anyone's health and wellness journey and goals plus offers athletic programming. The Flagstaff Aquaplex hosts their semi-annual Membership Drive offering discounted membership rates ranging from 10-25% off based on membership levels. At Hal Jensen Recreation Center, the team brings forward healthy eating habits plus an engaging youth basketball league supporting a healthy lifestyle. With Jay Lively Activity Center, cruising around the ice through leagues, hockey matches, and the incredibly popular public skate all have our skating community exemplifying health and wellness. Last, but certainly not least, at Joe C. Montoya Community and Senior Center, health and wellness for all ages is evident with every offering for all abilities.

For the hoops fan in you, the team offers Adult Basketball. The second season has begun! This program offers a healthy exercise outlet for our adult community that still has what it takes to drain threes from beyond the arc. Plus, the program provides a connection and an opportunity to build relationships with others seeking a wellness outlet.



Open Space



Open Space Coordinator

We are excited to announce that after a competitive recruitment process, Sylvia Struss has accepted the position of Open Space Coordinator.

Sylvia has served the City as the AmeriCorps Open Space Outreach and Open Space VISTA for the past two years. Her commitment to that role has allowed Open Space to deliver educational events and programming, outreach, property maintenance, and much much more.

Full Moon Hike

Open Space hosted a full moon hike on January 6 at Buffalo Park. 17 participants showed out in winter wear and braved the snowy trail for a hike under the moonlight.

Thank you to Risk Management for providing snow cleats for participant safety.

Our next full moon hike will be held on February 5 at 5:30p.m. We hope to see you at the Buffalo!



Events

New Year's Eve Pinecone Drop

Events staff brought in the new year with a bang. The New Year's Eve Pinecone Drop street closure and fireworks display are brought to the public by PROSE with safety provided through Police and Public Works. Crowds flooded the streets for the 10:00p.m. and midnight pinecone drop at the Weatherford Hotel and stayed for a wonderful fireworks display from Reyman Pyrotechniques. This signature event truly showcases the importance of working partnerships both internal and external and displays the wonders of Northern Arizona's Winter Wonderland.

