



City of Flagstaff Sustainability Division

June 2023 Monthly Report

HOT TOPICS:

- In support of National Pollinator Week and the Mayors Monarch Pledge, the [Flagstaff Sustainability Office hosted a series of events and opportunities](#) in June for individuals to get involved in their communities.
- [Ninety volunteers from the NAU Football Team joined our June 7th sandbag](#) (flood mitigation) event and helped refresh, palletize, and make over 2,000 sandbags.
- The Food & Waste Team welcomed a [new Recycling Education AmeriCorps Member](#), Fran Alvarado!

Climate Action

Community Resilience:

- The Climate Resilience Project met on-site at the Bonito Community on June 29th to learn about local pollinators, Flagstaff's network of community gardens, and how community gardens relate to growing Flagstaff's climate resilience.

Equity and Engagement:

- The climate team directly engaged with 395 people in June.
- Climate Advisory Groups:
 - The Equity Advisory Group participated in the first public meeting for the Downtown Mile Safety and Connectivity Improvement Project. Our goal was to be more informed on a local transportation project and how it relates to equity.
 - The Youth Climate Advisory Group is now accepting applications for the 2023-2024 school year. We are encouraging students from any Flagstaff high schools to apply here: <https://forms.gle/238wvtHM5emivwCY8>
- Work-Based Learning Alliance Internship
 - The Youth Climate Leadership VISTA mentored a team of 6 high school interns from across the state of Arizona, through the Work-Based Learning Alliance's summer internship program.
 - During the 4-week internship, interns completed a plan for a Carbon Neutrality Plan educational campaign, advising the Sustainability Office on strategies to increase public knowledge and awareness of CNP target areas. Interns presented their plan to Sustainability staff on June 27th.
- Sustainable Workforce Development:
 - The climate team has conducted survey interviews with 12 leaders and business owners in the sustainable workforce community to gather data about potential roadblocks in the hiring process. One roadblock identified so far includes lack of access to the necessary training and education for a career in the sustainable workforce. Further barriers identified

so far include systemic issues such as the cost of living and childcare. From this surveying process, we aim to create a network of programs, institutions, and employers, that will make green jobs more accessible to a broader group of people.

Building Fuel Switching and Reduced Energy Use:

- During the 2022-2023 fiscal year, the Home Weatherization Rebate Program distributed \$100,000 to residents to increase home energy efficiency and electrification. This \$100,000 included one-time supplementary funding that was available during the 22-23FY from the American Rescue Plan Act.

Neighborhood Engagement & Volunteer Services

Community Stewards June Data:

Number of clean ups	16
Bags of Recycling	13
Bags of Trash	147
Number of People	232
Service Hours	9744

Flood Mitigation (Sandbagging) Volunteer Events:

- The June 7th sandbag volunteer event was a huge success. 90 volunteers helped organize, refresh, and make over 2000 sandbags. These volunteers were from the Northern Arizona University Football Athletic Team. *Photos (Left) The NAU Football Team after volunteering at the June 7th sandbag volunteer event and (Right) some of the pallets of sandbags organized by the volunteers.*



Stream Stewards:

The Stream Stewards Program hosted the June Watershed Cleanup Series in Sinclair Wash starting at Lone Tree and Heading toward the I-40 on June 3rd. 30 wonderful volunteers came out for this event and cleared over two truckloads worth of debris from the channel and filled numerous trash bags. The total debris collected is estimated to be at least 60 bags. The next Watershed Cleanup Series is on Saturday, July 1st from 9am-11am at the crossing of the Rio de Flag and W Meade Ln. in Coconino Estates. *Photo Right: A picture of woody debris in Clay Wash before being cleared by Volunteers on June 3rd, (Bottom Left) Volunteers clear the collected woody debris and (Bottom Right) gather for a group photo in front of the very full dump truck at the June 3rd Watershed Clean up.*



Elevate, Empower, Engage (E3) Grant

- On June 20th, City Council approved a contract to the Community Assistance Teams of Flagstaff for the Elevate, Empower, Engage (E3) Grant. This is the second year of the grant which funds projects that provide employment opportunities to persons experiencing homelessness, or are at risk of homelessness, to abate litter in our community. This year the \$30,000 grant was matched by one-time funding of \$30,000 by the Arizona Department of Housing.

Food Systems

Pollinator Week (June 19-25th) and the Mayor's Monarch Pledge

- Staff organized a series of events to celebrate National Pollinator Week and educate community members on the Mayor's Monarch Pledge Pollinator Conservation efforts.
- New pollinator gardens were planted at Lura Kinsey Elementary School and The Murdoch Community Center, where 65 youth learned about pollinators and planted pollinator-friendly plants.

- In partnership with the Flagstaff Downtown Public Library, staff hosted two “Bee” a Pollinator Pal events to educate community members about pollinator conservation and make pollinator water stations to support conservation efforts. These events reached 40 community members, 30 of which were youth.
- In partnership with the Flagstaff Arboretum, staff hosted “Pollinator Fest” at the Arboretum on June 18th to celebrate the beginning of National Pollinator Week. Around 100 community members received pollinator education at this event.
- Staff hosted a “Exploring Pollinators” Art Contest to encourage creative engagement with pollinator conservation among community members. The contest received 23 submissions and engaged 22 youth in pollinator conservation.
- Staff built Pollinator Packets to distribute to community members to encourage more planting of pollinator-friendly plants throughout the Flagstaff area. Pollinator Packets were also distributed to Flagstaff City Council members during a public participation to announce pollinator week. A total of 20 Pollinator Packets were distributed.



Photos: (Top Left) Girl Scout Troop 6520 and staff gather for a group photo after planting pollinator friendly plants in the Murdoch Butterfly Garden. (Top Right) Kinsey Elementary students planting pollinator friendly plants in the new pollinator garden at their school. (Bottom Photo) Arboretum Summer Camp youth building pollinator water stations at the second “Bee” a Pollinator Pal workshop.

Flagstaff Green Schoolyards Initiative:

- Staff organized a meeting with representatives from the Children & Nature Network, Mayor Daggett, and other City leadership to discuss how the City can continually support equitable green space long-term.

- Members of the Green Schoolyards Initiative presented to 35 people at the Coconino Master Gardeners' June meeting about volunteer opportunities related to green schoolyard stewardship.

Materials Management

- The Food & Waste Team welcomed a new Recycling Education AmeriCorps Environmental Literacy Corp (ELC) member: Fran Alvarado. Fran has extensive waste experience, including authoring a thesis with waste policy recommendations for the City of Flagstaff as well as food and waste work with NAU Campus.
- Staff is launching the "Flagstaff Recycles" campaign to encourage proper recycling practices and lower our overall contamination rate. This campaign includes weekly social media posts and videos, in-person tabling, radio ads, bus ads, updated receptacle signage, and a new program focused on businesses in the downtown area.
- The Food & Waste Team engaged with over 140 people during June through the Wednesday Downtown Community Market predominantly focused on waste reduction and recycling in Flagstaff.
- Staff presented to 25 Upward Bound youth on recycling & waste reduction in Flagstaff.
- Staff carried out a recycling bin check in the Plaza Vieja neighborhood on June 7th. Forty-five households received direct recycling behavior change outreach including bin stickers and paper outreach materials. *Photos below: Two recycling bins seen during the June 7th recycling bin checks.*



Sustainability Commission

- Next meeting: Thursday, July 27th, 2023, 4:30 PM - 6:30 PM.
- Meeting agenda can be viewed [here](#). Meeting minutes can be viewed [here](#).

July Events

- Saturday, 7/1, 9:00am – 11:00am: [Watershed Cleanup Series](#)
- Saturday, 7/1, 9am-12pm: [Garden Volunteer Day](#)

- Tuesday, 7/11, 6:00pm-8:00pm, Downtown Library: [Climate Resilience Project: Housing & Climate Conversation](#)
- Saturday, 7/15, 7:00AM-11:00AM, [Murdoch Butterfly Garden Planting Day](#)
- Saturday, 7/29, 10:00am-2:00pm, Joe C. Montoya Community & Senior Center: [Fix-It Clinic](#)

Social Media

- In June, our **Facebook** posts reached 5,749 people. Total engagement on our page was 348 reactions, comments, shares, and clicks on posts. 14 new people liked/follow our page.
- Our top post on **Facebook** was in support of National Pollinator Week. This post reached 668 people and received 23 likes. *(See top photo below.)*
- In June, our **Instagram** posts reached 840 people. 25 new people started following our page.
- Our top post on **Instagram** was Bring Your Weeds to the Expert! This post received 34 likes! *(See bottom photo below.)*



Pollinator Awareness Month
June 1st - June 15th

"Exploring Pollinators" Art Contest
June 1st - June 15th

Pollinator Fest at the Arboretum
June 18th | 10am - 2pm
4001 S Woody Mountain Rd, Flagstaff, AZ 86005

"Bee" a Pollinator Pal with the Downtown Public Library
June 21st | 1:30pm - 3pm
419 N. Mogollon St, Flagstaff, AZ 86001

For questions, email
natalie.pierson@flagstaffaz.gov

In support of **National Pollinator Week** (June 19th-25th) and the Mayors Monarch Pledge, the Flagstaff Sustainability Office hosted various events and opportunities for individuals to participate in community pollinator conservation efforts.

Learn more about what we did this month to support pollinators using the link below!

<https://flagstaff.az.gov/4748/Pollinator-Week>



Bring Your Weeds to the Expert!

Do you have about plant species in the Flagstaff community?

This workshop will have resources on different types of plant species in Northern Arizona. Discover varieties of invasive plant species and the best practices for removal.

Join us tomorrow, June 24th, 10 am-12 pm for the "Bring Your Weeds to the Expert" Invasive Plant Species Workshop, a partnership between the City of Flagstaff Sustainability Office and Open Space.

419 N Mogollon St. (Park in the dirt parking lot outside the fence).