



PARKS, RECREATION, OPEN SPACE, AND EVENTS

JULY 2024 NEWSLETTER

Summer Sports Camp in action

Connecting our community through people, parks, natural areas, and programs.



Parks staff with a tractor at Touch a Truck

Parks and Recreation Month - “Where you Belong”

PROSE embraced this year’s National Parks and Recreation Month theme, “Where you Belong” by hosting several special events that showcased recreation facilities, programs, and creating unique experiences for the community to have fun and enjoy.



Face painting at the Aquaplex Carnival



Kids at the Bug Out event

Kids enjoying the playground at Bushmaster Park



PARKS

Congratulations Juan on U.S. Citizenship

The Parks team held a luncheon to celebrate coworker, Juan Avitia-Herrera, who became a U.S. citizen this month. The entire Division would like to give a shout-out to Juan for this great achievement!

Photo of Juan



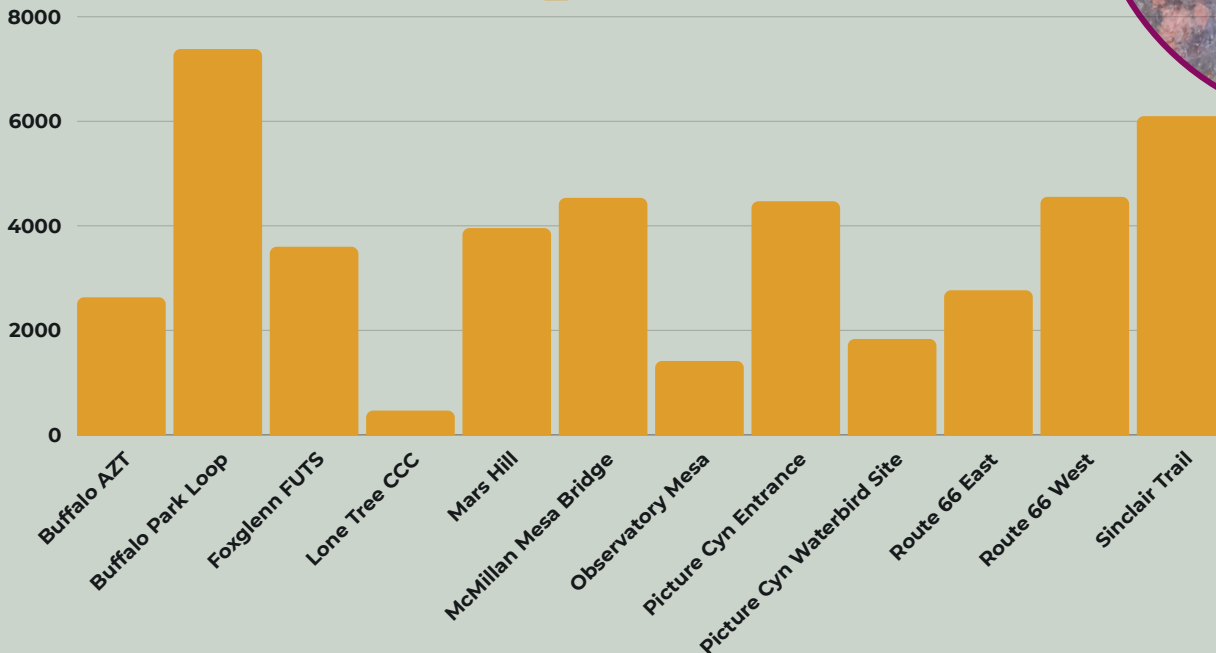
Photo of Alton laying down turf

New Parks Maintenance Worker

Parks welcomed a new Maintenance Worker, Alton Bailey, to the team. Alton has a background in maintenance and equipment operation and has hit the ground running.

June 2024 Trial Counts

Number of Users



Summer Sports Camp flag football



RECREATION

Jay Lively Activity Center

Joe C Montoya Community & Senior Center

Sports Camp attendees doing their morning stretches



Summer Sports Camp Success

Staff from Jay Lively Activity Center spear headed coordination to host a week-long Summer Sports Camp for youth. With help from Hal Jensen Recreation Center, the camp was successful with seventeen participants. Kids played new sports making use of the parks and recreation centers.

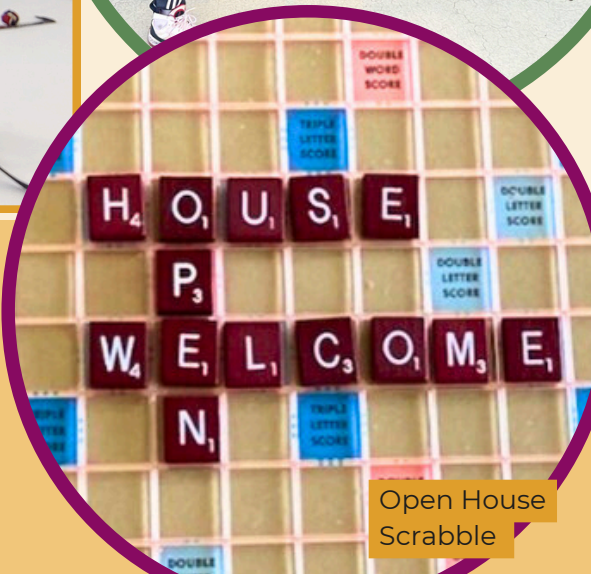
Mountain Mash Up Hockey Tournament

Jay Lively hosted their annual Mountain Mash Up Hockey Tournament for the third year in a row with great success. Participants each received a unique jersey for their team.

Kids playing street hockey at the Sports Camp



Tournament photo



Open House Scrabble

Joe C Montoya Community & Senior Center Open House

In celebration of Parks and Recreation Month, the Joe C. Montoya Community & Senior Center hosted an open house event to showcase the center's amenities, programs, and services. This event was well received by the community seeing approximately fifty people through the door.



RECREATION

Hal Jensen Recreation Center

Touch a Truck & Open House Event Success

Hal Jensen's annual Touch a Truck event was extremely successful this year with over twenty-three participating businesses and organizations and thirty-three vehicles to check out. The event saw over seven-hundred people and offered an opportunity learn about the Hal Jensen Recreation Center, meet the staff, and hear about upcoming programs and recreational opportunities.

Community Garden

The community garden is simply beaming with life, producing all kinds of vegetables and fruits.



Examples of some of the vehicles out for display at Touch a Truck



Community Garden



RECREATION

Aquaplex

Aquaplex Carnival

In celebration of Parks and Recreation month, the Aquaplex hosted a fun filled carnival. The event saw over two-hundred and fifty people! Attendees enjoyed a variety of activities such as an inflatable obstacle course, cornhole, mini-golf, pool games, duck races, balloon animals, face painting, crafts, fitness classes, and a live tap dance performance! This event brought both regular users as well as new, offering fun for everyone and an opportunity to feel welcomed at the Aquaplex.



Fun in the bouncy obstacle course



Balloon twisting

Welcome New Aquaplex Supervisor

The Aquaplex is excited to welcome Kyle Gambino into his new role as Recreation Supervisor. Kyle comes with passion and ample experience in the field of recreation. When Kyle isn't enjoying the many wonders of Flagstaff's outdoors he can be found playing softball in the City Athletic leagues!



Kyle and Aquatics Coordinator, Audrey working the Carnival event

Summer Camp fun



Summer Day Camps Are Back!

Summer day camps are back at the Aquaplex since taking a break after the COVID pandemic. Camps started off with slow with low enrollment but after reassessing the marketing scheme, camps took off and were full each week to the end. Some activities included arts and crafts, swimming, rock climbing, and water games!

OPEN SPACE



Volunteer weed pull



Kids examining a native thistle

Education Programs Running Strong

Youth field trips, educational programs, and volunteer events are running at full speed ahead. In the month of July, Open Space hosted five programs with participants from Hal Jensen Recreation Center, Flagstaff Community Explorers, the Boys and Girls Club, and more. These programs are almost always outside and incorporate education, stewardship, and most importantly, fun!

Invasive Plant Workshops and Volunteer Events

As a major part of managing Open Space properties, invasive weeds must be removed and prevented from growing in future seasons. Wednesday Weed Pulls have proven to be an effective program for invasive weed management. Open Space thanks EnviroSystems Management and their many volunteers for their time and effort in removing the many types of invasive plants found within the properties.



Identifying a plant

Bug Out Event

Open Space hosted the annual Bug Out event in partnership with Arizona Watchable Wildlife Experience. This event is always well attended and appreciated by the families that attend and organizations that participate.



Kids learning about aquatic insects



Examining a millipede at the Bug Out event

EVENTS & MARKETING



Tom McMillan from the AZ Hired Guns on his vintage Hammond B3 organ



Concert goes at the Jim Cullen Park demonstrating a proper pic-nic

Concerts in the Park Come to a Close

The Concerts in the Park series comes to a close with our last concert of the summer at the Jim Cullen Memorial Park. We estimate about 3,500 people came out to enjoy one of the concerts in our various parks. Staff received a number of people expressing their gratitude for these events and excitement for next summer.

Marketing Metrics and Success

Thanks to a conscious effort in consistent posting, as well as some strategic paid advertising, our social media accounts are reaching more people than ever before. Our marketing team has been working hard this month juggling between assisting with special events and seeing to marketing requests. This month, the team completed over twenty-five requests for marketing and continues exploring new ways to improve and streamline the process.

