



# PARKS, RECREATION, OPEN SPACE, AND EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 2024 NEWSLETTER

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

The Observatory Mesa Trail Plan Public Meeting



One of the stations at the Public Meeting

## Observatory Mesa Trail Plan Public Meeting

The Observatory Mesa Trail Plan Public meeting was successful with 120 members of the public in attendance. Feedback on the Trail Plan was documented through interactive stations that also provided information about various topics within the Plan. Special thanks go out to Southwest Decision Resources, volunteers, and of course the public's participation that made this meeting possible.

An [online survey](#) to collect more public input will remain open until October 18th.

## Open Space Completes Invasive Weed Pull Events for the Season

Open Space hosted over twenty-five weed pull events throughout the summer in which volunteers worked to remove invasive plants from Open Space and other City properties. These events not only work to improve ecosystem health by removing invasive weeds so native plants can thrive but also offer a way for people to connect. The people that volunteer their time to pull weeds in public spaces are full of passion for the natural world or maybe just bored... either way, these events are a great way to spend time outdoors, partake in interesting conversation and complete some satisfying work. Keep an eye out for next season's events and join this community of weed warriors!



Bagging weeds at golden hour



# PARKS



Ethan Cazarez

## Welcome Ethan Cazarez and Devin Todd!

The Parks section is excited to welcome two new Parks Maintenance Workers to the team, Ethan Cazarez and Devin Todd.



Devin Todd

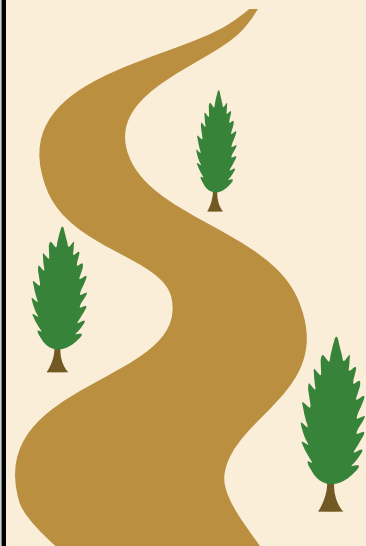
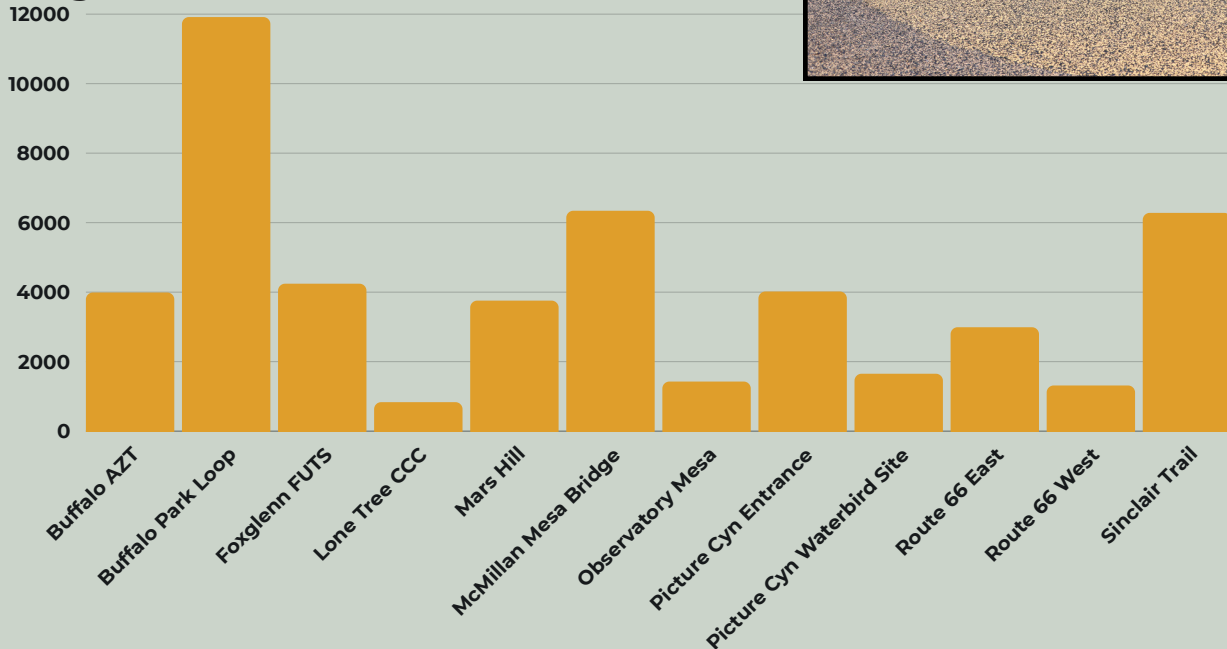
## Playground Rubberized Surfacing Repairs

Bushmaster, Guadalupe and Thorpe Park were temporarily closed for maintenance and repairs. Parks repaired the pour-in-place rubberized playground surfacing and applied a preventative maintenance flex-coat that will protect against weathering. The playgrounds are open again and fully functioning.



New rubberized surface at Thorpe Park

## August 2024 Trail Counts





Mah Jongg in action at Joe C. Montoya Community and Senior Center

# RECREATION



NAU Dental Screening

## Joe C. Montoya Community & Senior Center Partnered Events and Programs

Joe C. Montoya Center has been active with a variety of partnered events and ongoing programs. This month, some of these partnered events included:

- AZ Liver Health group presentation
- Pinnacle Prevention community food discussion
- NAU School of Dentistry dental screening clinic
- Music Therapy for Memory Loss for those with Dementia and Alzheimer's



Setting up to play Mah Jongg

## Regular Programs Running Strong

The regularly scheduled programs at Joe C. Montoya have been running strong with consistent retention and growth. Some of these programs include Mah Jongg, Chair Yoga, Bridge, Tai Chi, and Senior Stretch & Mobility.

## New Rubberized Weights

Joe C. Montoya received new weights for the workout room. The new weights have better grip on the handle and are rubberized so they are quieter when they hit the ground.



Shiny new weights



Chair Yoga practice



After-school regulars at Hal Jensen

# RECREATION

## Jay Lively Activity Center Fully Activated

Jay Lively Activity Center has been busy hosting groups and organizations for games, practices, and competitions. Some of the organization that used the facility this month include:

- Flagstaff Youth Hockey Association regular practice
- Avalanche High School Hockey games
- Ice in the Pines Figure Skating competition
- Northern Arizona University D3 regular practice and games

With the hockey season beginning and Adult Winter Hockey League almost upon us, the facility is open from 5:00AM to midnight on most days.



Ice Jacks hockey player  
Photo courtesy of NAU Ice Jacks

## Hal Jensen Recreation Center Youth Basketball Season Approaching

Planning and preparation for the Youth Basketball season is underway at Hal Jensen.

Registration for Youth Jr. Suns Basketball will open October 1st and dates for Skills and Drills / Draft will be posted soon. In the meantime, a Jr. Suns Youth Basketball Clinic has been scheduled and is open for registration. This clinic is free but limited to fifty participants, so sign up soon!

Click on the graphics to learn more and sign up.

**Jay Lively Activity Center**  
**SPOOKY SKATE**

Come in costume and skate for free!  
Skate rentals \$4.00 | All ages welcome!

**Wednesday, October 30th**  
**5:30pm - 7:00pm**  
Jay Lively Activity Center

## Spooky Skate Event

Jay Lively Activity Center is hosting their annual Spooky Skate event on October 30th. Come in a costume and skate for free! This is a great opportunity to get your costume ready for Halloween. All ages are welcome!

**JR. SUNS YOUTH BASKETBALL CLINIC**

Take your basketball skills to the next level.

**Sunday, October 20th**  
**12:00pm - 2:00pm**  
Hal Jensen Recreation Center  
(2403 N Izabel St)

**Registration is FREE**  
Space is limited to 50 participants  
Sign up online through Webtrac

PROSE For more information visit our website or call: 928-213-2762

**Hal Jensen Recreation Center YOUTH JR SUNS BASKETBALL**

**Registration Opens October 1st**

**Jr. SUNS Skills / Drills & Draft TBD**

Registration Cost **\$45**

PROSE

An evening Wednesday  
Weed Pull at Picture Canyon



Volunteers spreading native grass & flower seed

# OPEN SPACE

## 9/11 Service Event for City and NAU AmeriCorps Volunteers

Open Space partnered with Sustainability to host a 9/11 service event for NAU/AmeriCorps volunteers

and City of Flagstaff employees. Volunteers worked to cut flowers off invasive Bull Thistle to prevent regeneration, spread piles of mulch over old forest thinning projects to re-naturalize the area and sowed native grass and flower seed over areas where invasive weeds were pulled.

## Unique and Enriching Field Trips

Open Space staff led a field trip at Picture Canyon for Summit High School students that focused on edible and useful plants. Students hiked while learning about native plants and their historic uses whether that be for eating or making things such as baskets, tools, and dye. Some of these plants included Yucca, Wax Currant, Canyon Grapes, and Elderberry.



Canyon Grapes



Yucca in bloom

City of Flagstaff Open Space Presents

# CRYPTID QUEST

FLAGSTAFF FESTIVAL OF SCIENCE

A Bigfoot Geocache Puzzle Adventure

SEPTEMBER 19th-29th

Follow GPS coordinates and clues to find 10 words in local Open Space areas. Unscramble the words and take a hint from Bigfoot!

CITY OF FLAGSTAFF PROSE PARKS, RECREATION, OPEN SPACE & EVENTS

## Flagstaff Festival of Science Event: A Cryptid Quest

As part of the Flagstaff Festival of Science, Open Space created a geocaching adventure that can be done at an individual pace. Participants used GPS coordinates and clues provided on a worksheet to visit different Open Space locations and collect words to reveal a message from Bigfoot!

# EVENTS, MARKETING & ATHLETICS



## Branded Basketball Backboards!

The Marketing team and Parks have been working together to find ways to incorporate the PROSE logo and brand colors into our parks. Recently, new basketball backboards were custom ordered with the PROSE logo and installed at the Foxglenn Park basketball courts. We are happy with how they turned out and excited to see what is next.



## Welcome Jackson Hodsden Athletics

### Coordinator

Jackson Hodsden has transitioned to his new position as Athletics Coordinator. With some experience working as a temporary staff at the Aquaplex and assisting with field maintenance, Jackson has hit the ground running and is now umpiring softball and grass volleyball games, prepping the fields, scheduling staff and working to keep the athletics programs running strong.

## Aquaplex Fall Break Kids Day Camp

The Aquaplex is offering a Kids Day Camp over Fall Break. There will be swimming, rock climbing, arts and crafts, and games surrounding the week's theme: Journey to the Center of the Earth. **Click the graphic to learn more and sing up!**

**Flagstaff Aquaplex**

# FALL BREAK

## KIDS DAY CAMP

**OCTOBER 7 - 11**  
7:30am - 6:00pm

**Ages 5 - 11 year old**

**Member Price:**  
\$25/ day  
\$125/ week

**Non-Member Price:**  
\$35/ day  
\$175/ week

For more information about this one-week camp, call:  
928-213-2300

Flagstaff Aquaplex

[Click here to register on Webtrac](#)



Join Open Space for October's

# FULL MOON HIKE

## TARANTULA TREK

Open Space:

### McMillan Mesa

to hike the McMillan Mesa Loop  
(meet at Buffalo Park)

Thursday, October 17th  
5:30 - 7:30pm



## Open Sace Full Moon Hike Special Edition: Tarantula Trek

Join Open Space for this special edition Full Moon Hike... the Tarantula Trek! Hike the McMillan Mesa Loop (2-miles) and watch the Hunter's Moon rise.

During this hike, we will keep an eye out for tarantulas that come out this time of year and learn some interesting facts about them from a local entomologist. Please wear hiking shoes, dress for the weather, and bring water, a flashlight or headlamp, and hiking poles if needed (extra gear provided). Costumes are encouraged!

**Click the graphic to learn more.**

## Hal Jensen Recreation Center Halloween Carnival

Come by the Hal Jensen Recreation Center on Friday, October 25th for carnival themed games, Halloween arts and crafts, and best of all... the cake walk! Join the fun in costume or come as you are, either way, all are welcome!

**Click the graphic to learn more.**

**Hal Jensen Recreation Center**  
**HALLOWEEN CARNIVAL**  
Games | Crafts | Cake Walk

**FREE!**

**Friday, October 25th**  
5PM - 7PM

Costumes Encouraged

**928-213-2763**

## Flagstaff Aquaplex Pumpkin Plunge!

Imagine you are at the pumpkin patch, searching for the perfect Halloween pumpkin, except all the pumpkins are floating... in the pool! That's right, plunge for your pumpkin at the Flagstaff Aquaplex from 3:00-5:00pm (while supplies last). Just \$5.00 to join the fun (free with a costume!). Pumpkins are limited to the first 150 participants. Following the Pumpkin Plunge, stay for a Halloween themed pool party from 6:00-7:00pm.

**Click the graphic to learn more.**

Flagstaff Aquaplex

# PUMPKIN PLUNGE

October 26th

Pumpkin Plunge  
3:00 - 5:00pm

Pumpkins are limited to the first 150 participants



\$5.00 Entry

FREE with a costume!

Halloween Pool Party  
6:00 - 7:00pm

928-213-2300

