



# PARKS, RECREATION, OPEN SPACE, AND EVENTS

OCTOBER 2024 NEWSLETTER

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



Community members tour the future park site

## Neighborhood Park Public Meeting

A new neighborhood park is on the horizon! With help from Southwest Decision Resources and The WLB Group, we have been gathering input from the surrounding neighborhoods to help design the layout and suggest amenities that fit best in this park.

Public input has been gathered from the immediate neighborhoods through an online survey, virtual information session and this community meeting at the site. During this event, members of the public were invited to tour the site, learn about possibilities and limitations, and provide their ideas through interactive stations.



Father and son work on drawing their preferred park layout



The maple trees at Foxglenn Park

# PARKS

## Welcome New Park Ranger, Thomas McKenna

Parks is excited to welcome Thomas McKenna to the Park Ranger position. Thomas brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the team.

## Winterization Underway

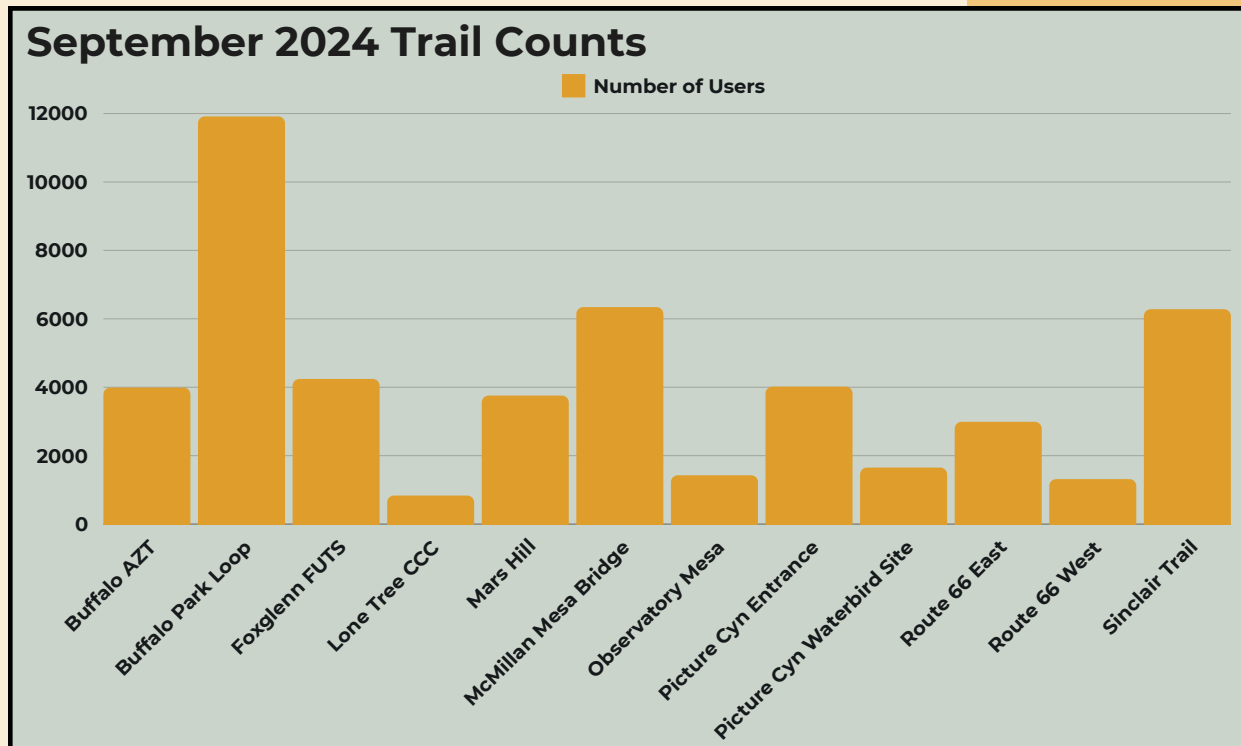
As fall turns to winter, the Parks team has been working diligently to prepare the parks' infrastructure for winter conditions. Some of these tasks include, evacuating water from the irrigation and drinking fountain lines utilizing compressed air and isolating the water connections. This is crucial to prevent freezing and cracking pipes which leads to future problems.



Thomas McKenna

## Farewell and Many Thanks to Paul McGuire & Andy Bunten

Two of Parks' long-time coworkers, Paul McGuire and Andy Bunten, retired this month. Andy worked for the City for fourteen years and Paul thirty-three. Many friends and coworkers gathered for a goodbye celebration. We are sincerely grateful for their contributions and wish them well in their retirement.





Pumpkins floating in the pool

# RECREATION



Pumpkin Plunge event

## Aquaplex Pumpkin Plunge Event

The Aquaplex hosted a new Halloween event this year called the Pumpkin Plunge with over two-hundred participants. The event offered the opportunity to swim in the pool amongst floating pumpkins and pick a favorite one to decorate or take home and carve. Both adults and kids enjoyed this unique twist on the pumpkin patch experience. Thank you to Viola's for discounting these pumpkins to make this an affordable event for the community.

Girl dressed as a scarecrow painting her pumpkin



## Jay Lively Activity Center Spooky Skate Event

The Spooky Skate event at Jay Lively Activity Center was a total hit for the community. Kids, teens, and adults showed



up in costume to skate for free and have some fun. Staff set up a trick-or-treat house where kids could enter and receive bag of candy and the facility was well decorated with cobwebs, pumpkins, and all things spooky. Over two hundred people came out to skate and spectate.



The cake walk at the Halloween Carnival

# RECREATION

## Hal Jensen Halloween Carnival Event

The Hal Jensen Halloween Carnival was a major success seeing over one-hundred people through the event. Kids and parents enjoyed playing fun games to win candy, making crafts to take home, and trying their luck at the ever so popular cake walk. The costumes were very creative, spooky, and cute!



Girl dressed as a butterfly showing off her crafts



Kid in costume playing the ring-toss



Girl dressed as Wednesday with her 'ghost in a jar' craft and fully committed to the character



Jr Suns Basketball Clinic

## Jr Suns Basketball Clinic

The Hal Jensen Recreation Center hosted a free youth basketball clinic with the Jr Suns program. Forty-six kids participated in the clinic. The kids learned some exercises to practice passing and dribbling skills and played some fun games to work on their shooting accuracy. At the end of the clinic, a basketball signed by Kevin Durant was raffled off.



Students learning how to measure water flow



Student getting a water sample

# OPEN SPACE

## Mount Elden Middle School Field Trip

Open Space hosted two hundred and forty seventh grade students from Mount Elden Middle School at Picture Canyon over the course of two days to learn about water. Students

rotated between stations where they learned how to measure water flow, test the water for chemicals, and took a short tour of the Wildcat Wastewater Treatment Plant. Many thanks to the partners that made this field trip possible: Sarah Jablon with City of Flagstaff Water Services, Cory Mueller and staff at the Wildcat Water Treatment Plant, and MEMS teachers and chaperones.



Students learning about the wastewater treatment process



Volunteers from Gore

## Volunteers from W.L. Gore Help with Trail Work at Picture Canyon

A group of staff from W.L. Gore volunteered a day out of their work week to help restore several unauthorized trails at Picture Canyon. Restoring unauthorized trails is imperative to preserving the area's natural state. New unauthorized trails appear frequently, but with the help of volunteers, Open Space is able to stay on top of this important task. In addition, this work helps fulfill the in-kind match to our AZ State Parks RTP (Recreational Trails Program) grant.



Unauthorized trail before



Unauthorized trail after



# EVENTS, MARKETING & ATHLETICS

## Fall Colors!

Fall is a great time for photos. The Events and Marketing Coordinator has been circulating the parks to capture some of this beauty for the website and future marketing purposes.

## Indoor Volleyball is in Session!

Fall 2024 Volleyball is back in action! Our Athletics Coordinator has been working diligently to schedule the thirty-four teams to play throughout the week at various high schools and middle schools.



## Winter Wonderland and Tree Lighting

The Winter Wonderland and Tree Lighting event is just around the corner! Join us downtown on Saturday, December 7th for this free, family-friendly event! There will be hot cocoa, s'mores, crafts, live music and more! The tree lighting will take place at

6:15pm. Be sure to stick around and take a photo with Santa!



**FREE!**

DOWNTOWN FLAGSTAFF FOUNDATION AND CITY OF FLAGSTAFF PARKS, RECREATION, OPEN SPACE, AND EVENTS PRESENTS

# WINTER WONDERLAND AND TREE LIGHTING

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7**  
**STARTING AT 2:30PM**  
**HERITAGE SQUARE**

LIVE MUSIC \* HOT COCOA  
SANTA \* S'MORES \* CRAFTS



FLC: FLAGSTAFF LOCAL COMMUNITY FOUNDATION  
PROSE: COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP FOR OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION