

# PROSE

## PARKS, RECREATION, OPEN SPACE, AND EVENTS

December 2023

### Directors Reflection

As 2023 comes to a close, it's a great time to reflect on a year of accomplishments, milestones, and growth for our still relatively new Division. None of these great things could have happened without our mighty team of coworkers, who work hard every day to provide the best outdoor spaces, recreation facilities, trails, natural areas, athletics programming, and events for the Flagstaff community.

From a massive snow season that kept the team busy with snow operations into March and a delayed opening of fields until the snow melted and the mud cleared, to the completion of the Buffalo Park Accessibility Trail and Thorpe Restroom completion (woo hoo!), and dipping our toes in the water with a new Park Ranger position, Parks has been extremely productive.

Recreation saw the continued return of patrons and programming to all recreation centers (what pandemic?!), celebrated a first-time collaboration with Theatrikos at Joe C. Montoya, and we now have live streaming at Jay Lively Activity Center thanks to Live Barn (check out the brand new score boards too!).

Open Space completed a multitude of grant projects and the new Education Coordinator and program is a huge success.

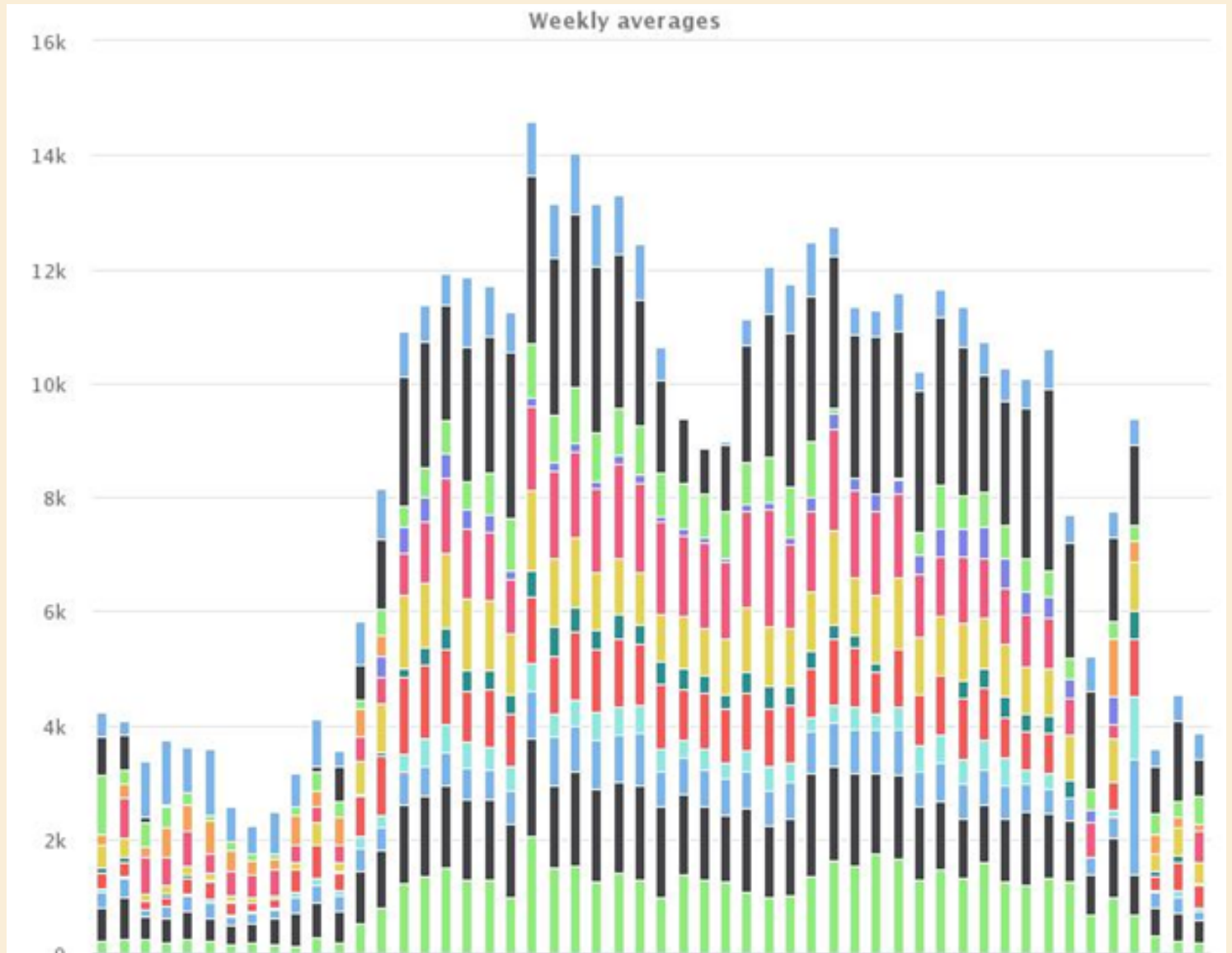
The Events team pulled off a massive feat, in partnership with other Recreation partners, to provide a one-of-a-kind 4th of July experience with only two months to plan and implement, all while working with over 900 permits for events on city properties, and integrating the Athletics program into the section.

2023 has been an exciting year, and we are looking forward to continued accomplishments and exciting things to come in 2024 and beyond. Heartfelt thanks go to each of our team, and to the community for supporting "The PROSE!"

-Rebecca Sayers, PROSE Division Director

## Yearly Trail Counts

Over a 12-month period, there were 775,304 passersby via foot or bicycle along the FUTS trails in our Open Spaces, Parks, and commuter routes! Weekly snapshot over 12-month period.



Expect a budget challenge from PROSE as to how the brain trust at the organization can develop a stronger maintenance plan on the current FUTS for the enormous amount of users.

Site Name	
Buffalo AZT	Blue
Buffalo Park Loop	Black
Foxglenn FUTS	Green
JW Powell	Orange
Lone Tree CCC	Purple
Mars Hill	Pink
McMillan Mesa Bridge	Yellow
Observatory Mesa	Teal
Picture Cyn Entrance	Red
Picture Cyn Waterbird Site	Cyan
Route 66 East	Light Blue
Route 66 West	Dark Blue
Sinclair Trail	Light Green



The Parks team recently completed a large beautification project at the Bushmaster Park Skate Park. The aging perimeter fence was replaced with a steel 2-rail FUTS style fencing. The project was a large undertaking for the staff involved and was completed with efficiency and attention to detail.

The expertise and ambition demonstrated by parks team allowed for the project to be completed ahead of schedule with a cost savings to the section without the use of an outside contractor. Staff also utilized this project as an opportunity to train several parks coworkers on proper welding techniques, which has a great benefit to the section while empowering coworkers with new skills.



Congratulations to our Parks section for having Buffalo Park Nate Avery Trail voted Best of Flagstaff!

Please extend a warm welcome to the Divisions first Park Ranger, Matthew Bowen, who began his new role on 11/27/23

Matthew retired from the United States Airforce after 26 years of service and has since worked as a facility manager at the Arboretum of Flagstaff and as a seasonal park ranger for the National Forest Service at Glacier National Park. Matthew is a 2019 graduate of the NAU Park Ranger Program and is currently pursuing his master's degree in Parks and Recreation Management. He brings a wealth of knowledge and skills to the team and is enthusiastic about his new role with the Division.





### Candy Cane Community Lunch

The Joe C. Montoya Community and Senior Center hosted the annual Candy Cane Community Lunch on December 12th. City and County dignitaries served lunch to more than 60 seniors who participate in the congregate meal program.

### Staff Promotion

Louis Lucero was promoted to Recreation Supervisor on December 10, 2023. Louis worked as a Recreation Coordinator for 23 years in various programs areas including Hal Jensen Recreation Center (formerly known as Flagstaff Recreation Center), Athletics, Murdoch, and Joe C. Montoya Community and Senior Center. Louis' experience in program creation, implementation, and management will assist him in being successful in his new role. We look forward to Louis implementing new programs at JCM for the entire community and mentoring a new coordinator with his many years of experience. Congratulations Louis!



The Open Spaces Commission will continue consideration of the request to adjust an existing easement off of Hidden Hollow Road through Observatory Mesa Natural Area at its January 22, 2024 meeting starting at 5pm at Flagstaff City Council Chambers and/or via Microsoft Teams. The room will be open to view maps at 4:30pm. Get involved in the future of Flagstaff's Open Space!



In Fiscal Year 2022-2023, Open Space provided nature education to 741 adults and 1,564 students. We had 622 volunteers who volunteered 2,635 hours cleaning up trash and barbed wire, leading hikes, restoring unauthorized trails, and removing invasive weeds on Picture Canyon, McMillan Mesa, and Observatory Mesa Natural Areas. Thirty-two of those volunteers were ongoing Open Space Stewards with 580.25 hours.

## Winter Wonderland

9,500 people came out to partake in the Winter Wonderland Holiday Tree Lighting on December 2nd. Attendees enjoyed live music, crafts, hot cocoa, and cookie decorating in anticipation of the tree lighting. Santa arrived via firetruck to lead the crowd in a countdown and with a touch of magic, the tree lit!

Thank you to our partners with the Downtown Business Alliance who are a vital part of bringing this event to life.

**CITY OF FLAGSTAFF**

**2ND SESSION  
ADULT 5X5  
BASKETBALL**

**WINTER 2023 | LEAGUE PLAY BEGINS  
JANUARY 14**

**REGISTRATION & LEAGUE INFO**

Registration Opens  
December 6

- Register online using QR Code or in-person at the Flagstaff Aquaplex

Closes January 5

Registration fee

- \$325 per team
- \$400 late fee after 1/5

**CLICK HERE TO REGISTER**

For more information:  
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**CITY OF FLAGSTAFF PROSE**  
PARKS, RECREATION,  
OPEN SPACE & EVENTS

## Upcoming Events in Flagstaff

**Noon Years Eve  
December 31  
Heritage Square**

**New Years Eve Pinecone Drop  
December 31  
Downtown Flagstaff**

   
[flagstaff.az.gov/prose](http://flagstaff.az.gov/prose)