

## NOTICE AND AGENDA

OPEN SPACE COMMISSION  
MONDAY  
JANUARY 27, 2025

HYBRID MEETING  
FLAGSTAFF AQUAPLEX  
AND [MICROSOFT TEAMS](#)  
1702 N FOURTH STREET  
4:00 P.M.

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Roll Call**

*NOTE: One or more Commissioner may be in attendance through other technological means.*

|  |  |
|--|--|
| Chair - Vacant                         | Commissioner Molly Joyce                   |
| Vice Chair Jacqueline Thomas           | Commissioner Lina Wallen                   |
| Commissioner Mary Norton (P&Z Liaison) | Commissioner Nat White                     |
| Commissioner Bruce Fox                 | Councilmember Representative: David Spence |

3. **Land Acknowledgment**

The Flagstaff Open Space Commission humbly acknowledges the ancestral homelands of this area's Indigenous nations and original stewards. These lands, still inhabited by Native descendants, border mountains sacred to Indigenous peoples. We honor them, their legacies, their traditions, and their continued contributions. We celebrate their past, present, and future generations who will forever know this place as home.
4. **Approval of Minutes**

Open Space Commission Meeting December 9, 2024
5. **Public Comment**

At this time, any member of the public may address the Commission on any subject that is not scheduled before the Commission on this day. The Arizona Open Meeting Law prohibits the Commission from discussing or taking action on an item which is not listed on the prepared agenda. Commission members may, however, respond to criticism made by those addressing the Commission, ask staff to review a matter, or ask that a matter be placed on a future agenda. To address the Commission on an item that is on the agenda, please wait for the Chair to call for Public Comment at the time the item is heard.
6. **Business Items**
  - A. Council Liaison and Open Spaces Commission Introductions.  
Information Item. Introductions.
  - B. Chair/Vice Chair Seat Selection.  
Decision Item: The commission will discuss chair appointments and may potentially vote on the chair and vice chair seat selections.
  - C. Greater Observatory Mesa Area Trail Plan: Public comment synthesis review & recommendation Decision Item. Staff and partners will review the Greater Observatory Mesa Area (GOMA) Trail Plan public feedback and will recap the plan's progress. Following this update, staff will work with the commission to refine potential recommendations from the commission to the Open Space Section regarding considerations for the final GOMA Trail Plan draft.
  - D. Beautification Grant Application Commission Letter of Support.  
Decision Item: Beautification Grant Application Commission Letter of Support.

- E. Project Prioritization and Multi-year Project Planning Update. Information and discussion Item. Staff will review the projects ranked by the Open Spaces Commission during their last meeting.

**7. Reports and Updates**

- A. Council Representative Report, Councilmember David Spence
- B. Planning and Zoning Commission Representative Report, Representative Mary Norton
- C. Open Space Management Report, Robert Wallace and Sylvia Struss
- D. PROSE Monthly Newsletter
  - a. December PROSE Newsletter

**8. Informational Items To and From Commissioners and Staff**

**9. Potential Future Agenda Items**

**10. Adjournment**

CERTIFICATE OF POSTING OF NOTICE

The undersigned hereby certifies that a copy of the foregoing notice was duly posted at Flagstaff City Hall on \_\_\_\_\_, at \_\_\_\_\_ a.m./p.m. This notice has been posted on the City's website and can be downloaded at [www.flagstaff.az.gov](http://www.flagstaff.az.gov).

Dated this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2024.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Annie Ridgell, Administrative Specialist

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact Annie Ridgell ([annie.ridgell@flagstaffaz.gov](mailto:annie.ridgell@flagstaffaz.gov)) at least two business days prior to the scheduled meeting time to enable the City to make reasonable arrangements.



**Open Spaces Commission**

4.

**From:** Annie Ridgell, PROSE Administrative Specialist

**DATE:** 01/27/2025

**SUBJECT:** **Approval of Minutes**  
Open Space Commission Meeting December 9, 2024

---

**STAFF RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

**Executive Summary:**

---

**Attachments**

Commission Minutes 12/9/24

---

## OPEN SPACE COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

OPEN SPACE COMMISSION  
MONDAY  
DECEMBER 9, 2024

HYBRID MEETING  
FLAGSTAFF AQUAPLEX  
AND [MICROSOFT TEAMS](#)  
1702 N FOURTH STREET  
4:00 P.M.

### 1. Call to Order

Commissioner Applin started the meeting at 4:05 PM.

### 2. Roll Call

*NOTE: One or more Commissioner may be in attendance through other technological means.*

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Chair Bruce Applin                     | Commissioner Lina Wallen  |
| Co-Chair Jacqueline Thomas             | Commissioner Nat White  |
| Commissioner Mary Norton (P&Z Liaison) | Councilmember Representative: Deborah Harris (Not Present)  |
| Commissioner Bruce Fox                 | Others Present: Rebecca Sayers, Robert Wallace, Sylvia Struss, Ashlee Fliney, Cole Lang and Annie Ridgell |
|  | Martin Ince present on Teams  |

### 3. Land Acknowledgment

The Flagstaff Open Space Commission humbly acknowledges the ancestral homelands of this area's Indigenous nations and original stewards. These lands, still inhabited by Native descendants, border mountains sacred to Indigenous peoples. We honor them, their legacies, their traditions, and their continued contributions. We celebrate their past, present, and future generations who will forever know this place as home.

### 4. Approval of the October 28, 2024 Minutes

Commissioner Fox motioned to approve the minutes of the October 28th meeting as written. Commissioner Wallen seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### 5. Public Comment

At this time, any member of the public may address the Commission on any subject that is not scheduled before the Commission on this day. The Arizona Open Meeting Law prohibits the Commission from discussing or taking action on an item which is not listed on the prepared agenda. Commission members may, however, respond to criticism made by those addressing the Commission, ask staff to review a matter, or ask that a matter be placed on a future agenda. To address the Commission on an item that is on the agenda, please wait for the Chair to call for Public Comment at the time the item is heard.

No public comments were made.

Robert Wallace introduced Cole Lang as the OS Assistant. He is an AmeriCorps Member, with the Environmental Literacy Corps (ELC). Its members serve with local agencies and organizations to promote environmental literacy in northern Arizona and beyond.

### 6. Business Items

A. Regional Plan Review and Recommendation. (8514)

Decision Item: Review, finalize, and vote on the Commission's recommendation.

The Flagstaff Regional Plan 2045 is open for a 60-day review from October 20 to December 19, 2024. The Open Space Commission elected at their October 2024 meeting to review the plan and prepare a formal recommendation. The Commission discussed the plan's strengths and improvement opportunities and finalized the consensus of comments below.

Dear Regional Plan Committee,

Please accept this summary of comments from the Open Spaces Commission on the Draft Flagstaff Regional Land Use Plan 2045. This document represents a consensus of comments from members of the Open Spaces Commission regarding the plan's strengths and improvement opportunities.

**STRENGTHS OF THE PLAN:**

One of the Plan's five main priorities is to "Protect the region's significant and cultural resources"

1. Parks, Recreation and Open Space are grouped together with its own implementation section
2. Chapter 8's "High Priority Action Item" is land acquisition in the John Wesley Powell area
3. The plan acknowledges the need for recreation and open space across the city
4. The implementation Guidelines in Chapter 8 specifically mention the requirement of following the Management Plan for *Legally-Designated Open Space Properties*
5. Recognition for the importance of state lands in the acquisition of additional open space
6. Recognition of the importance of open space preservation with areas of development.

**IMPROVEMENT OPPORTUNITIES:**

1. Lack of comprehensive integration between topics. The Plan should identify how different goals balance priorities. Inherently difficult priorities need to be balanced by the document, examples:

a. Better and more clearly identify and explain consequences of implementing different actions by acknowledging the conflicts of balance between achieving higher density and preserving accessible natural resources, including open space, access and viewsheds

b. More clearly and strongly connect plan recommendations to potential effects on the private sector and the potential partnerships with respect to open space and access

c. Policy PROS 2: the two parts of this policy contradict/negate/cancel each other out. Delete "while allowing for concentrated development in areas that support housing supply and climate action". Leave only the first part of the policy to "Focus the purchase and management of regional preserves and connector open spaces on protecting cultural or significant natural resources".

d. Policy PROS 4 & 5: the Action items do not address how we will get new parks and open space set aside, gifted, required, or purchased during the early development plans of a greenfield site. Without such a policy, we are too late. The plan should address how this will be achieved

e. In the Chapter 8 Goal, add "providing 10-minute accessibility to open space". This is part of the Open Space core documents, and should be included in the goal in addition to the mention in the Implementation Guidelines.

2. Shorten and reduce jargon;

a. The document is very long and difficult to read

b. Better define key terms used in the plan, such as "significant" and "greenfield"

3. Identified omissions;

a. Resource Guidelines should be expanded. For example, why aren't the large stands of Ponderosa Pines, Prairie dog colonies, escarpments, etc. not mapped? We believe that these

should be included in our natural resources and wildlife. The significant natural resources map should be comprehensive

b. It is important to more explicitly include maintenance of recreation and open space areas, not just acquisition and development

c. Provide more emphasis on how trail systems reduce carbon emissions along with more clearly identifying safety issues resulting from more bike use (a "consequence" example).

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback to this important community document. We appreciate your attention to the Commission's recommendations.

Sincerely,

Mr. Bruce Applin  
Open Spaces Commission Chair

Open Spaces Commission Members:

Commissioner Bruce Applin  
Commissioner Mary Norton  
Commissioner Bruce Fox  
Commissioner Jacqueline Thomas  
Commissioner Lina Wallen  
Commissioner Nat White

Chair Bruce Applin motioned to vote on the Commission's Recommendation. Commissioner Bruce Fox seconded the motion. There was unanimous support for the Open Spaces Commission's recommendation to be submitted to the Regional Plan Committee.

**B. Project Prioritization and Multi-year Project Planning. (8515)**

Open Space Commission review and maintenance projects, new amenities, and acquisitions to which the BBB tax could be allocated. The Commission completed an activity where they rank from 1 to 10 (1 being the lowest and 10 the highest). The Commission's input will direct staff in the development of a capital project plan. The results of the Commission's prioritization activity will be shared at their January 2025 meeting. Projects considered as part of the activity include the following:

**McMillan Mesa Property Restoration:** Evaluate property to determine property restoration areas. Work could involve eradicating invasive plants in areas of high infestation, seeding, and completing erosion control in high-use areas.

**McMillan Mesa Signage:** Design and install signage throughout the preserve to match the newest design, including rules signage and other educational information. Open Space applied for a \$10,000 grant for this project, which, if awarded, could help fund some of it.

**McMillan Mesa Trail Rehabilitation:** This project will evaluate the McMillan Mesa trails and partner with Parks to complete the needed trail repairs and maintenance.

**McMillan Mesa Tree Canopy Buffer:** Restore property between the FUTS and the Veteran's home. This would address past impacts, restore vegetation, control erosion, and help create a vegetative buffer. Grant funding could possibly be obtained to supplement this project.

**Observatory Mesa Fencing:** Install wildlife-friendly fencing for the Observatory Mesa Natural Area to reduce unauthorized motorized vehicles, minimize cattle impacts, and inform users that they are entering a protected Natural Area with regulations enforced.

**Observatory Mesa Property Restoration:** Continue restoration work on forest thinning chip piles, which has been ongoing with grant funding. Grant funding will be spent by 12/2025.

**Observatory Mesa Trail Plan Implementation:** Implement the council-approved trail plan,

which includes priorities 1-3 and long-term priorities. The plan would incorporate parking, signage, restroom facilities, unauthorized road and trail restoration, trail maintenance, and trail building. Grant funding could likely be obtained for this project.

**Observatory Mesa Water Tank Restoration:** Evaluate earthen water catchment basins to determine the benefits of restoration. Restore high priority tanks to retain water for wildlife.

**Picture Canyon Fencing:** Install wildlife-friendly fencing for the Picture Canyon Preserve to reduce unauthorized motorized vehicles, prevent further mine encroachment, and inform users that they are entering a protected Natural Area with regulations enforced.

**Picture Canyon FUTS Connection:** Work with FUTS to design and build the FUTS connection to the Picture Canyon Trailhead. Property acquisition and rights are needed before implementation can occur. Grant funding could possibly supplement this project.

**Picture Canyon Locus D Trail Spur and Viewing Area:** Design and build a trail spur to the Locus D rock art panel to help manage current use and provide another opportunity to view rock art.

**Picture Canyon Property Restoration:** Continue restoration work on unauthorized roads and trails that have been ongoing with grant funding. Grant funding will be spent by 5/2025. Expand work to restore vegetation in areas with high infestations of invasive species, such as along the Rio de Flag corridor.

**Picture Canyon Rio De Flag Bridge Replacement:** Replace the current wood bridge with a steel FUTS-style bridge.

**Picture Canyon Signage Replacement:** Upgrade the sun-damaged signage throughout the preserve to match the newest design, including rules signage and other educational information. Grant funding could possibly be obtained to supplement this project.

**Picture Canyon Toilet:** Develop a single restroom unit for the public at the Picture Canyon Trailhead.

**Picture Canyon Trail Rehabilitation:** This project will evaluate the Picture Canyon trails and complete the necessary trail repairs and maintenance.

**Picture Canyon Trailhead Entry Road and Parking Lot:** Repair/Replace the roadway and trailhead parking for Picture Canyon. The road from the Wildcat Water Reclamation Plant to the Picture Canyon Trailhead.

**Schultz Creek Trailhead:** Designing new trailhead improvements to enable proper parking, signage of the trail system, delineation of trail access to direct use to approved locations, and the addition of appropriate facilities such as trash service and restrooms. Property acquisition and rights are needed before implementation can occur. Grant funding could possibly be obtained to supplement this project.

## 7. Reports and Updates

- A. Council Representative Report, Council Representative Deborah Harris - not present.
- B. Planning and Zoning Commission Representative Report, Representative Mary Norton (10 minutes)
  - 1. Commissioner Norton updated and encouraged the commissioners to view the City Council discussion on the John Wesley Powell resolutions (numbers: 2024-49, 2024-50, 2024-51) from the December 3, 2024 council meeting, regular agenda items 11b-11d. Shared information included considerations that may be important to the Open Spaces Commission such as trail considerations, wildlife impacts, open space and parks and safe access during development. These resolutions authorize executing the development agreements to permit the construction

of the road alignment. There is much additional work that needs to be completed to achieve the open space commission's property open space corridor.

2. Secondly, council approved a property rezoning, Routine item 9C: **Adoption of Ordinance No. 2024-29**: An ordinance amending the Flagstaff Zoning Map to rezone approximately 13.96 acres of real property located at 4631 S. Lake Mary Road, from the Estate Residential (ER) zone with a Resource Protection Overlay (RPO) to the High Density Residential (HR) zone with a Resource Protection Overlay (RPO) at the December 3, 2024 council meeting.
3. Thirdly, the Planning and Zoning Commission were involved in a work session regarding the Resource Protection Overlay (RPO). City staff are proposing a change in the RPO standards. This change would allow a development to forgo counting the trees in proposed main arterial roadways so that removed trees from the road alignments would not count against the development's RPO requirements. Tree resource percentage would be worked out after roads are put in. This change will allow more houses to be built.

C. **Open Space Management Report, Robert Wallace and Sylvia Struss**

The Open Space Section had 30 attendees at the October 17, 2024 Full Moon hike.

The McMillan Mesa signage grant has gone through two out of three required reviews. A final review will be completed by the Arizona Department of Transportation before the Open Space Section is notified about the award results.

D. **PROSE Monthly Newsletter - No comments or questions**

- October 2024 Monthly Newsletter
- November 2024 Monthly Newsletter

8. **Informational Items To and From Commissioners and Staff**

A. The Arizona State Parks Board reviewed and approved the Hidden Hollow Driveway through Observatory Mesa Natural Area.

B. Molly Joyce was appointed Commissioner by the City Council on December 3, 2024.

C. February will be a joint commission meeting with the Parks and Recreation Commission and the Open Spaces Commission.

9. **Potential Future Agenda Items**

Next Meeting January 27, 2024

- Observatory Mesa Trail Plan
- Present Top 10 in January
- Project Planning activity review

10. **Adjournment**

Commissioner Applin motioned to adjourn, Commissioner Thomas seconded. All in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 6:06 PM.

CERTIFICATE OF POSTING OF NOTICE

The undersigned hereby certifies that a copy of the foregoing notice was duly posted at Flagstaff City Hall on December 3, 2024, at 4:00 p.m. This notice has been posted on the City's website and can be downloaded at [www.flagstaff.az.gov](http://www.flagstaff.az.gov).

Dated this 3rd day of December, 2024.

*Annie Ridgell*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Annie Ridgell, Administrative Specialist

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact Annie Ridgell ([annie.ridgell@flagstaffaz.gov](mailto:annie.ridgell@flagstaffaz.gov)) at least two business days prior to the scheduled meeting time to enable the City to make reasonable arrangements.



**Open Spaces Commission**

6. A.

**Co-Submitter:** Rebecca Sayers, Parks, Recreation, Open Space, and Events Director

**From:** Robert Wallace, Open Space Supervisor

**DATE:** 01/27/2025

**SUBJECT:** Council Liaison and Open Spaces Commission Introductions.

---

**STAFF RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

Information Item. Introductions.

**Executive Summary:**

Introductions for the City Council appointed liaison, Council Member Mr. David Spence, and Open Spaces Commissioner Ms. Molly Joyce.

---



**Open Spaces Commission**

6. B.

**Co-Submitter:** Rebecca Sayers, Parks, Recreation, Open Space, and Events Director

**From:** Robert Wallace, Open Space Supervisor

**DATE:** 01/27/2025

**SUBJECT:** Chair/Vice Chair Seat Selection.

---

**STAFF RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

Decision Item: The commission will discuss chair appointments and may potentially vote on the chair and vice chair seat selections.

**Executive Summary:**

n/a

---



**Open Spaces Commission**

6. C.

**From:** Robert Wallace, Open Space Supervisor

**DATE:** 01/27/2025

**SUBJECT:** Greater Observatory Mesa Area Trail Plan: Public comment synthesis review & recommendation

---

**STAFF RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

Decision Item. Staff and partners will review the Greater Observatory Mesa Area (GOMA) Trail Plan public feedback and will recap the plan's progress. Following this update, staff will work with the commission to refine potential recommendations from the commission to the Open Space Section regarding considerations for the final GOMA Trail Plan draft.

**Executive Summary:**

The City of Flagstaff Open Space Section, has been working with the community to develop a draft of the Greater Observatory Mesa Area Trail Plan. The Trail Plan's purpose is to design a trail system for implementation in the Greater Observatory Mesa Area. The final plan will include recommendations for restoration and define appropriate uses for a trail system. The City of Flagstaff will use the final plan to direct future management and trail implementation.

The Open Space Commission will be discussing and considering recommendations on the Trail Plan as a whole, with an additional focus on mountain bike optimized alignments.

The draft plan, public comment synthesis, and other supporting information can be found at: <https://flagstaff.az.gov/4870/Greater-Observatory-Mesa-Trail-Plan>

---



**Open Spaces Commission**

6. D.

**Co-Submitter:** Rebecca Sayers, Parks, Recreation, Open Space, and Events Director

**From:** Robert Wallace, Open Space Supervisor

**DATE:** 01/27/2025

**SUBJECT:** Beautification Grant Application Commission Letter of Support.

---

**STAFF RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

Decision Item: Beautification Grant Application Commission Letter of Support.

**Executive Summary:**

Review and finalize the draft letter of support for the Beautification Grant Application requesting funding to create a Hopi art installation for the Rio De Flag bridge located in the Picture Canyon Natural and Cultural Preserve in honor of Mr. Jack Welch.

---



**Open Spaces Commission**

6. E.

**Co-Submitter:** Rebecca Sayers, Parks, Recreation, Open Space, and Events Director

**From:** Robert Wallace, Open Space Supervisor

**DATE:** 01/27/2025

**SUBJECT:** Project Prioritization and Multi-year Project Planning Update.

---

**STAFF RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

Information and discussion Item. Staff will review the projects ranked by the Open Spaces Commission during their last meeting.

**Executive Summary:**

This agenda item will update the Open Space Commission on its ranked priorities for priority maintenance projects and new amenities to which BBB tax could be allocated to support project completion. The desired result of this work will be the production of a 5-10 capital improvement plan focusing on community open space priorities. The capital improvement plan will be reviewed at the Parks and Recreation and Open Spaces Commission's combined meeting on February 24, 2025.

---



**Open Spaces Commission**

7. D.

**From:** Annie Ridgell, PROSE Administrative Specialist

**DATE:** 01/27/2025

**SUBJECT:** PROSE Monthly Newsletter

a. December PROSE Newsletter

---

**STAFF RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

**Executive Summary:**

---

**Attachments**

PROSE December 2024 Newsletter

---



# PARKS, RECREATION, OPEN SPACE, AND EVENTS

2024 YEAR IN REVIEW NEWSLETTER



PROSE Staff group photo

As 2024 comes to a close, I am filled with pride as I reflect on the incredible achievements of our PROSE team this year. It has been a year of growth, innovation, and dedication, and I'm excited to highlight the many milestones we've reached together.

Thank you to the PROSE team for your tireless efforts and for making this a truly memorable year. Your dedication inspires me every day!

-Rebecca Sayers, PROSE Director

## New Mission and Values

The entire Division gathered for a day to work with Julie Lancaster with Lancaster Leadership to decide on a new mission and vision statement as well as a list of values. The day was full of exercises to foster the team culture and deliver results in creating a new mission, vision and values statement. The results are:

### Mission:

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

### Vision:

Creating unique experiences and places to play.

### Values:

- Community enrichment
- Conservation
- All inclusive
- Authenticity

Parks' float for the Parade of Lights



# PARKS - HIGHLIGHTS



Float feature

## Parade of Lights

Parks staff got in the holiday spirit by participating in the Chamber of Commerce Parade of Lights. A small team of staff designed and decorated a float, based on the Island of Misfit Toys, utilizing retired playground equipment. This was a great way to connect with the community and have some fun.



Parks staff on their float



Parade of Lights

## Continental Park Playground

Parks installed a new playground structure at Continental Park. The new structure is designed for children ages two to five. It is located with a view of the three main fields so families can enjoy the new amenities while watching youth sports.



Continental Park Playground

## Ponderosa Trails Playground

The new playground at Ponderosa Trails Park has been a huge hit with the community. The Parks Section completed the installation in August. The previous structure was twenty-five years old and due for replacement. The new playground offers opportunities for climbing, sliding, dangling, and more in a relatively small space.

Ponderosa Trails playground



Ponderosa Trails playground aerial view



New park kiosk sign at Thorpe Park



## Park Kiosk Signs

Parks is excited to have begun the process of replacing existing park kiosk signs with new metal signs designed by Parks staff themselves. These signs are a much-needed improvement from the previous signs, which break down over time due to sun exposure. This year, the Parks team upgraded seven signs throughout Flagstaff.

Laying the new sod



## Thorpe Park Sod Project

In cooperation with the Flagstaff Soccer Club, Parks was able to implement a full closure of the Thorpe Multi-Purpose Field in order to establish a healthy new layer of sod. This project successfully replaced over 6,000 square feet and the field reopened in time for fall activities.



# Snow Operations

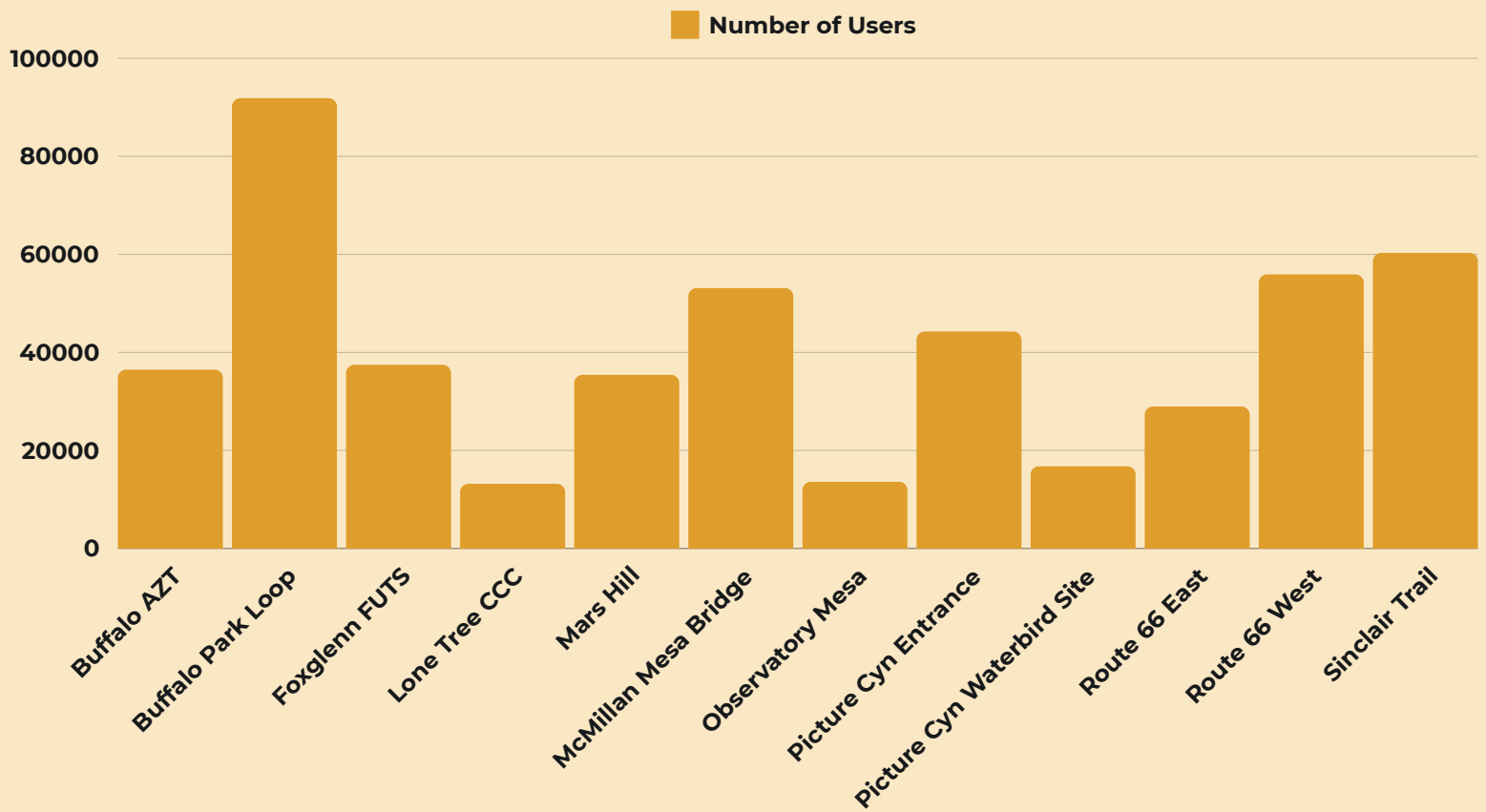
During the month of January, there were 1,090 labor hours spent on snow operations with 70% of those hours on equipment and the rest with performing handwork, i.e. shoveling or snow throwing. During the month, 61.4 inches of snow accumulation occurred becoming the third largest on record for Flagstaff! When using the standard of an inch of snow per square foot weighs 1.25 pounds, Parks estimates that over 87 million pounds of snow were moved during the month.



Snow removal at Heritage Square



## 2024 Year Total Trail Counts





Pumpkin Plunge event

# RECREATION HIGHLIGHTS

## Halloween Events

October was packed with Halloween events for the whole family. The Aquaplex introduced a new event called the Pumpkin Plunge where participants could swim in a pool full of floating pumpkins and take one home. Hal Jensen Recreation Center hosted a Halloween Carnival with over one hundred visitors through the door, and Jay Lively Activity Center hosted their annual Spooky Skate event that saw more attendees than any other year.



Girl painting pumpkin



Spooky Skate event



Halloween Carnival event

## Youth Basketball Skills and Drills

Hal Jensen Recreation Center teamed up with the NAU Basketball team to kick off the Youth Basketball season with one-hundred and eighty participants.



Skills and Drills event

# Joe C. Montoya Programs New and Old Running Strong

This year Joe C. Montoya Community and Senior Center introduced several new programs and reintroduced some old ones. Among some of the most popular programs this year have been Mahjongg Club, Bridge, Chair Yoga, and Tai Chi.



Mahjongg club



Chair Yoga class

## Jay Lively Activity Center Ice Removal and Maintenance

Jay Lively Activity Center managed to complete many large projects during the annual cleaning and maintenance closure, including the removal of the entire sheet of ice in order to fix cracks in the surface. This project was a tremendous undertaking and could not have been done without the hard work of all the staff at Jay Lively who went above and beyond their normal duties. Sincere gratitude goes out to staff from JLAC as well as City Facilities for assisting with the complex projects. The fresh ice and clean facility have been appreciated by all.



Removing the ice



People enjoying the fresh new sheet of ice



Staff at JLAC on an iceless rink



Touch a Truck event

## Parks and Recreation Month

This year, the events during Parks and Recreation Month were better than ever. The month of July was packed with unique and enriching activities for all ages. Hal Jensen Recreation Center hosted their annual Touch a Truck event that saw over seven-hundred people. The Aquaplex hosted a Carnival with games, an obstacle course, balloon animals, and offered an opportunity to explore all that the Aquaplex has to offer. Joe C Montoya Community and Senior Center hosted an Open House event with sample classes and programs that the Center offers. Each event ran smoothly and exceeded attendance expectations. Each year, these events get more popular, creative, and ultimately reach the community in a meaningful way.



Touch a Truck event



Aquaplex Carnival event





# OPEN SPACE HIGHLIGHTS

## Outdoor Education Program

This year, the Open Space outdoor education program continued with great momentum thanks to the AmeriCorps Environmental Literacy Corps intern, Desert Mulford, and the continuation of the Heritage Grant position which was filled by Ashlee Fliney. The team provided educational programming to 1,378 youth and 1,749 adults. This program continues to grow strong with new and existing partnerships.



Stream sampling at Picture Canyon



Bug Out event



Hal Jensen Rec Center kids at Picture Canyon

## Full Moon Hikes and New Events

The monthly Full Moon Hikes saw more attendees this year than any other. These monthly evening hikes not only offer an opportunity for people to explore Open Space, but also create an avenue for people to meet, form community, and have a unique and memorable experience with nature. Open Space also hosted several new events including a neighborhood Tree Walk for Arbor Day, a Plein Air Painting event for ArtX, and participation in several new tabling events.



ArtX Event



Arbor Day Tree Walk



Full Moon Hike

## Trail Restoration at Picture Canyon

Over the course of the year, four miles of restoration work was completed at Picture Canyon with the help of the Arizona Conservation Corps and one hundred and eighty-five people who volunteered a total of 589 hours of work. The Arizona Conservation Corps also completed installing stone steps at the Petroglyph Overlook and re-routed the trail at the Waterbird Petroglyph Site so that it is no longer right up against the boulders with petroglyphs, which invited scratched graffiti.



Picture Canyon restoration work



Restoration in progress



## Volunteer Events and Weed Pulls

Open Space continued to host another successful round of Wednesday Weed Pull events at Picture Canyon over the summer. They also introduced a new Volunteer Weed Pull and Workshops Series in partnership with the City of Flagstaff Sustainability Community Stewards Program. This event series tackled weeds on other City properties, urban trails, and along the Rio de Flag. In addition to these new educational series, Open Space hosted many other groups to conduct volunteer work on all three Open Space properties throughout the year.



Invasive Weed Workshop



Bagging weeds

Winter Wonderland event



# EVENTS, MARKETING & ATHLETICS - HIGHLIGHTS

## Winter Wonderland

Another successful Winter Wonderland for the books! Thanks to the partnership with the Downtown Business Alliance and sponsors, around 6,500 people attended this event.



Winter Wonderland event

## First Lady at Pride in the Pines Event

The First Lady of the United States, Jill Biden, made a guest appearance at the Pride in the Pines festival on June 15th. Her attendance at this festival was unexpected and demonstrated positive collaboration across the organization.



First Lady at Pride in the Pines event



# Concerts in the Park

Over the summer, the Events and Marketing team hosted another successful round of Concerts in the Park. We estimate 7,000 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.



Concerts in the Park



# Ramada Rentals Online

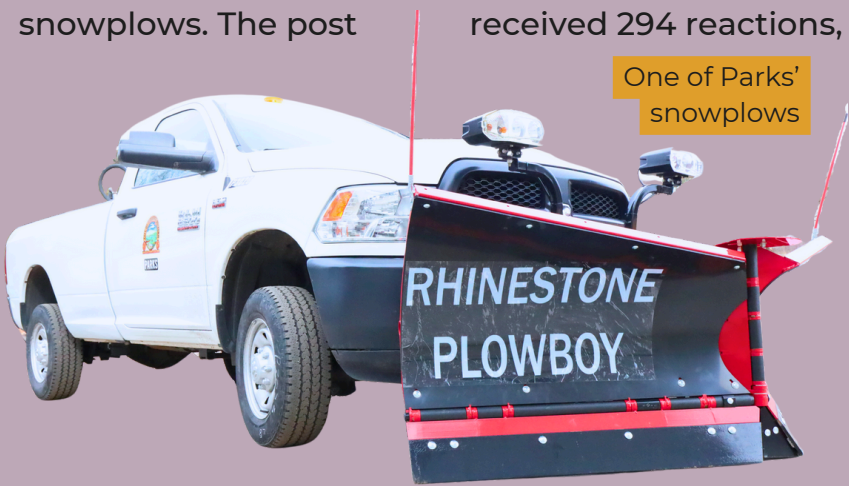
The Events and Marketing team worked alongside Information Technology to implement an online reservation system including mapping through ArcGIS. The switch to online reservations has been years in the making and is finally able to be successful due to software updates. This system has performed incredibly well this year and has made the process for reserving ramadas in the parks easier for both the public and staff.



Ramada

# Snow Plow Naming Social Media Campaign

Events and Marketing managed one of their highest engagement social media posts. The team created a way for the public to submit their ideas for naming Parks snowplows. The post received 294 reactions, 43 shares, 30,843 impressions and reached



One of Parks' snowplows

30,181 accounts through social media. The names included: The Berminator, Holy Sleet, Panda, Dwight D. Eisenplower, DARTH Blader, Scoop Dog, Rhinestone Plow Boy, and Tater Tot. The team is excited to continue to increase engagement on social media through new and creative ways that both inform and entertain in a meaningful way.