



PARKS, RECREATION, OPEN SPACE, AND EVENTS

FEBRUARY 2025 NEWSLETTER

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



The Dominating Ducks vs The Lumberjacks (2nd /3rd Grade Basketball game)



Girl shoots for the hoop

Exciting Season of Youth Basketball at Hal Jensen Recreation Center

This season of Youth Basketball at Hal Jensen Recreation Center was a tremendous success, with 260 kids participating —nearly doubling last year’s numbers! In total there were eight regular-season games, with practices held at the Recreation Center and Sinagua Middle School. A highlight from the season was NAU Night, where players were granted free admission to the NAU basketball game on February 8th by wearing their jerseys. Chick-fil-A generously sponsored the league, providing a kids’ meal to one player from each team after every game. The season was filled with fun, teamwork, and plenty of smiles, thanks to the dedication of our coaches and the enthusiasm of all the players!



Boy defends the ball

PARKS

Welcome New Parks Maintenance Workers and Parks Technicians!

Parks is very excited to have almost a full staff again with only three current vacancies. Welcome Parks Maintenance workers Jaden Wiley and Kyle Cameron and Parks Technicians, Israel Armenta, Kob-Bar-Li (Kobi) Sillan and Jonathan Guetter.



Kobi, Jonathan, & Israel



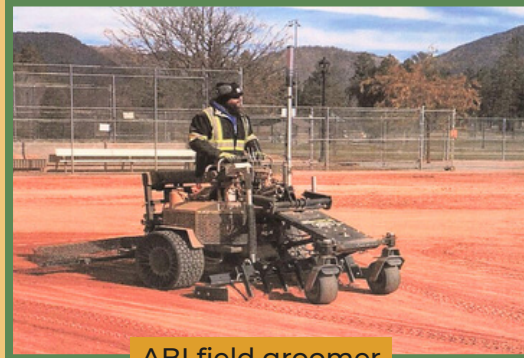
Kyle & Jaden

Parks Projects in Full Swing

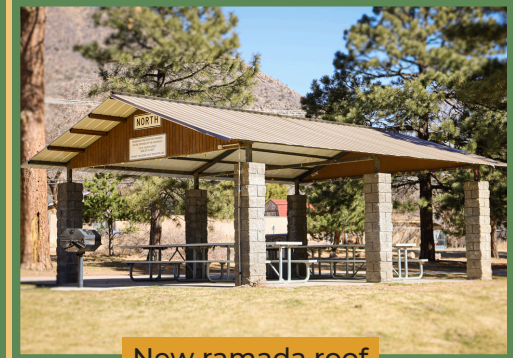
The unseasonably warm weather has allowed Parks staff to get a head start on annual baseball field maintenance and complete several improvement projects throughout the community.



New fence at the Aquaplex



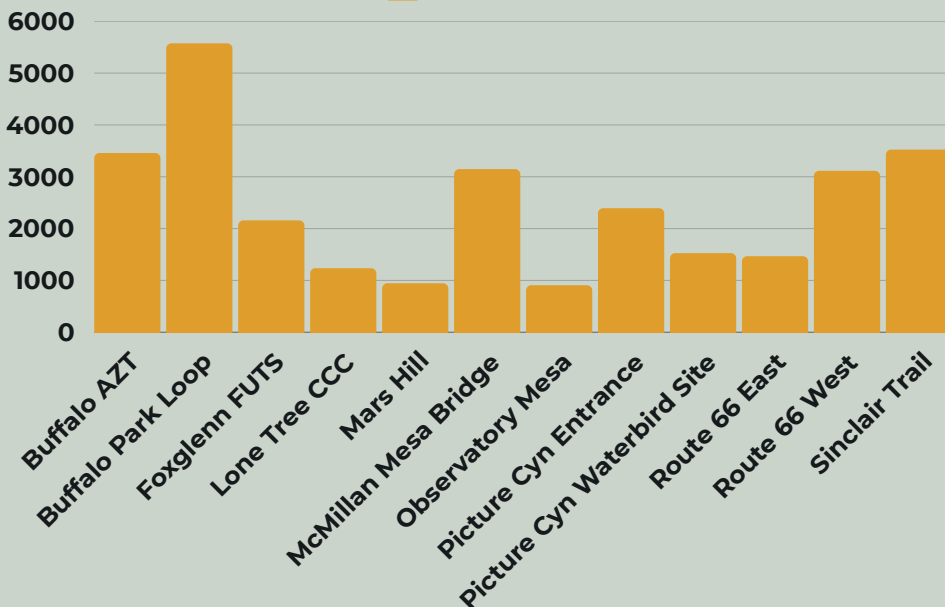
ABI field groomer



New ramada roof

January 2024 Trail Counts

Number of Users



Some projects complete this month:

- Installed a new steel fence on the east side of the Aquaplex
- Replaced the roof on the north ramada at Bushmaster Park
- Replaced concrete walkway at Hal Jensen Recreation Center
- Added a new memorial bench with concrete pad at Buffalo Park
- Began field maintenance, including replacing pitching rubbers and home plates, cutting grass edges, and adding fresh clay to high-use areas, and laser-leveling the infield with the ABI field groomer



Public Skate at Jay Lively

RECREATION

Jay Lively Activity Center - Busy Hosting Events & Facility Improvements

Jay Lively Activity Center has been busy this month hosting NAU hockey games, birthday parties, field trips and more! A new sound system was installed and has greatly improved the experience at public skate sessions. A broken bathroom door in the orange locker room was repaired, all work orders have been completed, and the backup Zamboni is back in action thanks to Fleet Services. Additionally, regular ice maintenance has kept the ice in top condition and staff have implemented a new ice measurement system to ensure consistent quality. Lastly, the April hockey tournament is filling up fast, with only three spots remaining.

Aquaplex Kids Club Upgrade

The Aquaplex recently received a generous donation of supplies and furniture for Kids Club. These additions have made a significant improvement, creating a more inviting and functional environment for all to enjoy.



Boys playing raquetball



Kids Club

Racquetball Courts at Hal Jensen are Back in Action!

In response to some community feedback, both racquetball courts at Hal Jensen have been cleared out and are open for play once again!

Black History Month at Hal Jensen Recreation Center

Hal Jensen Recreation Center welcomed approximately 70 attendees for a special Dinner and Movie Night in celebration of Black History Month. Guests enjoyed a screening of a featured film while eating delicious soul food. To further honor the month, staff displayed posters of prominent historical figures throughout the facility, creating an engaging and educational atmosphere for all who came through.



OPEN SPACE

Restoration and Preventative Maintenance

After a couple of volunteers helped start the project in December, Open Space staff Ashlee Fliney and Sylvia Struss finished painting the foot bridge over the Rio de Flag at Picture Canyon Natural & Cultural Preserve. This long-overdue project has given the bridge a fresh, revitalized look!

In order to prevent illegal motorized travel, Parks staff lent some time and equipment to place large boulders at key trail access points to Picture Canyon and Observatory Mesa. These strategically positioned boulders serve as natural barriers, protecting the trails and preserving the area's natural beauty.



Foot bridge



Rock barriers at Observatory Mesa



Killip student at the STEM Night

Killip Elementary STEM Night

Open Space educator, Ashlee Fliney hosted a booth at Killip Elementary School's Family STEM Night, where over 300 children and family members stopped by to explore the signs of wildlife found at Picture Canyon. Through interactive displays and hands-on learning, families had the chance to discover the diverse species that call this natural area home!



Students with their cameras

Photography Students Visit Picture Canyon

A group of 31 photography students from Chandler High School visited Picture Canyon for a guided hike, capturing the beauty of the landscape through their lenses. The students photographed scenic vistas, wildlife, and cultural sites to feature in their end-of-quarter portfolios.



Adult Basketball

EVENTS, MARKETING & ATHLETICS

Adult Winter Basketball League Wraps Up Second Session

The second session of the Adult Winter Basketball League came to a close last week. The 51's claimed victory in the Monday/Wednesday circuit, while Step Bros took the title in the Tuesday/Thursday circuit. There are so many fantastic players in the community, congratulations to everyone that participated. To capture some of the excitement, the Events and Marketing Coordinator snapped some awesome action shots during one of the final games.



Action shots from Adult Basketball



Concerts in the Park - Call for Musicians

The Events and Marketing team released their call for musicians for Concerts in the Park. They are searching for family-friendly musicians to perform a 2-hour set on a Wednesday night in June or July for the annual series. Interested musicians should email their demo to: SpecialEvents@flagstaffaz.gov by March 21st. Audio will be provided by Peaks Entertainment.

Stay connected!



CONCERTS IN THE PARK
Call for Musicians

FAMILY FRIENDLY
Performances on Wednesday nights in June & July

Send your demo to
SpecialEvents@flagstaffaz.gov

CITY OF FLAGSTAFF
PROSE