

## NOTICE AND AGENDA

OPEN SPACES COMMISSION  
MONDAY  
JULY 28, 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 Commissioners may be in attendance through other technological means.*

Chair Jacqueline Thomas

Co-Chair Bruce Fox

Commissioner Mary Norton (P&Z Liaison)

Commissioner William Kluwin

Commissioner Molly Joyce

Commissioner Lina Wallen

Commissioner Nat White

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 June 23, 2025 Minutes**

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. **Regional Plan Review and Recommendations**

Decision Item.

Open Spaces Commissioners will review the latest Regional Plan draft, outline the recommendations the Commission would like to make, and select a Commission member to represent the Commission regarding group recommendations on upcoming opportunities.

B. **Draft Code Analysis Project: Code Concepts Report Review and Recommendations**

Decision Item.

Open Spaces Commissioners will review the Analysis Project: Code Concepts Report, which is part of the Land Availability and Suitability Study & Code Analysis Project (LASS + CAP). Commissioners will outline and vote on the group recommendation.

C. **Observatory Mesa Natural Area Renaming Consideration**

Decision Item.

Open Spaces Commissioners will share information and thoughts on the pros/cons of renaming the Observatory Mesa Natural Area.

7. **Reports and Updates**

- A. Council Representative Report, Council Representative 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
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 July 23, 2025, at 1 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 23rd day of July, 2025.

*Lori Reynolds*

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Lori Reynolds, Administrative Specialist

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



**Open Space Commission**

4.

**From:** Lori Reynolds, PROSE Admin Specialist

**DATE:** 07/28/2025

**SUBJECT:** Approval of June 23, 2025 Minutes

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**STAFF RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

**Executive Summary:**

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**Attachments**

Approval of June 23, 2025 Minutes

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## MINUTES

OPEN SPACE COMMISSION  
MONDAY  
JUNE 23, 2025

HYBRID MEETING  
FLAGSTAFF AQUAPLEX  
AND MICROSOFT TEAMS  
1702 N FOURTH STREET  
4:00 P.M.

### 1. Call to Order

Chair Jacqueline Thomas called the June 23, 2025 Open Spaces Commission meeting to order at 4:01 PM.

### 2. Roll Call

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

Chair Jacqueline Thomas	Commissioner Molly Joyce
Co-Chair Bruce Fox	Commissioner Lina Wallen (virtual, intermittently present)
Commissioner Mary Norton (P&Z Liaison)	Commissioner Nat White
Commissioner William Kluwin	Councilmember Representative: David Spence

Others present: Ashlee Fliney (virtual), Haley Reynolds (present for part of the meeting), Lori Reynolds, Rebecca Sayers, Sylvia Struss, and Robert Wallace

### 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 May 12, 2025 Minutes.

Commissioner Norton motioned to approve the May 12, 2025 minutes. Commissioner White seconded and all voted in favor.

Motion by Mary Norton, Seconded by Nat White

### 5. Public Comment

Chair Thomas called for public comment on any items not on the agenda. There were no comments or requests.

### 6. Business Items

#### A. Update on July 4th Drone Show

Haley Reynolds, City of Flagstaff Events and Marketing Manager, shared with the commission details on the upcoming Fourth of July drone show happening in Flagstaff. This drone show, by Open Sky Productions, will be a first for Flagstaff. She referenced a map of the drone show's coverage area that is available on the Discover Flagstaff webpage (<https://www.flagstaffarizona.org/events/festivals/4th-of-july-events/>).

Haley highlighted points on the map for designated viewing areas, parking availability, and general information about the scope of drone visibility. She mentioned that there would be traffic control

points and park staff monitoring in Buffalo Park and around McMillian Mesa to provide points of communication to the public. Haley further informed the commission that the event was first brought to City Council in April of this year and the proposed budget for the event is \$95,000. She concluded by sharing that the drone show would feature custom animation and custom audio that would last just over 20 minutes, beginning promptly at 9:10 PM.

Commissioner White asked if Haley could elaborate on what a drone show was exactly. She informed him that it was a coordinated light show in the sky using drones. Each drone is programmed to synchronize different visual features and fly in different sequences to an audio recording. There were additional concerns expressed about the drones and what could happen if they crashed or there was inclement weather. Haley replied that the drones were not prone to crashing; they could land themselves. She also added that drones could continue to fly in a mild rain or wind event, but if a larger monsoonal system moved through, they would have to postpone until the weather was gone.

Commissioner White also requested to know who spearheaded the event, to which Haley responded that this was a city effort and that the funds were coming from a budget transfer from Economic Vitality to Events. Councilmember Spence commented that the drone show was a fraction of the cost of a traditional fireworks show and is more mindful of the current fire restrictions in effect.

Commissioner Joyce asked if the city had reached out to the bus line to see if they could run later hours to help get more people from across town closer to the optimal viewing area for the event. Haley replied that they did talk with Mountain Lion bus line, but they did not have the staffing capacity to support extended hours.

Chair Thomas expressed concern about the staff assisting on McMillan Mesa and Buffalo Park not appearing to look like official event support staff. Haley shared that all staff and volunteers assisting would have reflective vests and would each be familiar with the space and be able to educate event visitors on Leave No Trace principles.

There were no additional commission or public comments on the topic of the Fourth of July Drone Show.

## B. Observatory Mesa Natural Area Renaming Consideration

Robert Wallace, Open Space Supervisor, opened the topic for the commission to discuss renaming suggestions for Observatory Mesa, including what the implications or results of that name change could mean. Chair Thomas added that a result of the name change could include increased tourism and time and resources to update the name on signage and published materials.

Commissioners engaged in a lively back and forth discussion on the topic of renaming Observatory Mesa. It was acknowledged that Picture Canyon Natural and Cultural Preserve has similar founding documents as Observatory Mesa and that should be taken into consideration for the renaming. Commissioner White shared his preference for including "Preserve" in the name (Observatory Mesa Preserve), as it would keep consistency with Picture Canyon's name. Commissioners were reminded by Mr. Wallace that the names of the city's regional preserves do not determine how the open space properties are managed.

Commissioner Kluwin mentioned that the Observatory Mesa name did not communicate that it was a City of Flagstaff regional preserve within the boundaries of the City of Flagstaff. Commissioner Joyce expanded on this, sharing that other cities have different names for pieces of land, such as Community Forest or Demonstration Forest. Commissioner Joyce asked her fellow commissioners to consider consulting with local indigenous peoples to get their input on this name change. Mr. Wallace informed the commission that this name change does not need to go through City Council and that renaming this property could help set it apart from Forest Service land and other private properties.

It was requested that Open Space staff coordinate with Rose Toehe, Indigenous Affairs Administrator for the City of Flagstaff, as a starting point for indigenous consultation on the renaming of Observatory Mesa. Mr. Wallace added that by the next meeting he would have alternative name options to present.

Chair Thomas requested that the Observatory Mesa renaming be added as a future agenda item. There was no public comment.

### **C. Open Spaces Commission Accomplishments & Priorities**

Robert Wallace shared different topic items on Open Space accomplishments and projects that the commission could request to be expanded upon as future agenda topics.

- Observatory Mesa right-of-way easement, providing access from highway 180 to private property on the east side of Observatory Mesa Natural Area, section 6.
- Don Weaver Trail realignment Open Spaces Commission's recommendation.
- Community naming memorial, approval for the Jack Welch Memorial Bridge.
- Community beautification grant approval for the artwork on the Jack Welch Memorial Bridge.
- Community Beautification grant approval for landscaping native plants near Izabel Street and the Segó Lily Trail.
- Regional Plan comments submitted by the Open Spaces Commission.
- Grants and conservation easements report completion
- Ongoing projects for new signage along McMillian Mesa and new fencing along the boundary of Picture Canyon.
- Insight into future focus areas, including the Regional Plan, LASS CAP input, and the Forest Resource Pilot Program Zoning Code Text Amendment.

Concluding the topic with future priorities and agenda items, Mr. Wallace shared with the commission that LASS CAP input for Framing Our Future Together was looking for feedback on the Code Concepts report.

The commission returned to the discussion on the need for an Open Space Master Plan. Rebecca Sayers, PROSE Director, provided insight that the Open Space Master Plan, it would be a part of a PROSE Master Plan. This would involve going through a procurement process and would take time. Once they had a contractor in place, the Open Space Commission would likely become a focus group for the contractor, and the Commission would be encouraged to get the community to participate through public meetings, feedback and surveys. Chair Thomas remarked, speaking on behalf of the commission, that they fully support the PROSE staff working on getting this procurement project moving this year.

## **7. Reports and Updates**

### **A. Council Representative Report, Council Representative David Spence**

Councilmember David Spence did not have anything specific to share with the commission, but he did mention that he has been sharing with the City Council the status of various Open Space projects.

### **B. Planning and Zoning Commission Representative Report, Representative Mary Norton**

Commissioner Norton shared with the commission details on an upcoming community meeting for a conditional use permit for a golf course and related facilities in the 125-acre parcel of land south of I-40 near the Pine Canyon development. The meeting will be held via Zoom on July 2, 2025 at 5:30 PM. Anyone in the community can listen, learn, and provide feedback.

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

Sylvia Struss, Open Space Coordinator, shared an update with the commission on current Open Space projects.

- Staff drafted a FUTS connection proposal between Route 66 and Picture Canyon.
- Applied for a \$170,000 grant with the Tohono O'Odham Nation.
- Addressed abandoned campsites and trash dumps on McMillian Mesa.
- Worked on a beautification grant at the bottom of the Sego Lilly Trail, adding riprap rock to reduce erosion.
- Ongoing work addressing the illegal mountain biking trails that have been created around Observatory Mesa past the Railroad Springs neighborhood.

Sylvia also shared upcoming Open Space events.

1. Wednesday Weed Pulls, recurring on select Wednesdays through September 3, 2025.
2. Bug Out event at Frances Short Pond on June 28, 2025 from 10 AM to 12 PM.

### D. PROSE Monthly Newsletter

The May 2025 newsletter was shared. No comments or feedback was received from commissioners.

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

There were no additional informational items from Commissioners or Staff.

### 9. Potential Future Agenda Items

Chair Thomas referenced discussions from earlier in the meeting, reiterating that they would add the Observatory Mesa renaming consideration into next month's agenda.

### 10. Adjournment

Commissioner White motioned to adjourn. The meeting ended at 6:07 PM.

Motion by Jacqueline Thomas, Seconded by Nat White



**Open Space Commission**

6. A.

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

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

**DATE:** 07/28/2025

**SUBJECT:** Regional Plan Review and Recommendations

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**STAFF RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

Decision Item.

Open Spaces Commissioners will review the latest Regional Plan draft, outline the recommendations the Commission would like to make, and select a Commission member to represent the Commission regarding group recommendations on upcoming opportunities.

**Executive Summary:**

The Regional Plan draft is currently being finalized for public review. The Open Spaces Commission will review the plan, identify comments directly related to open space, and appoint an Open Spaces Commissioner to provide public comments during the upcoming hearings. Upcoming public hearings include:

- August 27 - Citizen Review Session with the City Planning and Zoning Commission
  - September 10 - Public Hearing #1 with the City Planning and Zoning Commission
  - September 24 - Public Hearing #2 with the City Planning and Zoning Commission
  - October 9 - City Council Public Hearing on adopting the Regional Plan
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**Open Space Commission**

6. B.

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

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

**DATE:** 07/28/2025

**SUBJECT:** Draft Code Analysis Project: Code Concepts Report Review and Recommendations

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**STAFF RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

Decision Item.

Open Spaces Commissioners will review the Analysis Project: Code Concepts Report, which is part of the Land Availability and Suitability Study & Code Analysis Project (LASS + CAP). Commissioners will outline and vote on the group recommendation.

**Executive Summary:**

Land Availability and Suitability Study & Code Analysis Project (LASS+ CAP) is happening in multiple stages. Right now, planners are looking for feedback on the Code Concepts report. The Open Spaces Commission will review this report and determine what comments they would like to make before the August 26, 2025, Council Meeting. Final code recommendations related to the LASS+CAP are planned to be presented to the City Council on October 26, 2025. Information on the LASS+CAP and the Code Concept report, and the recording from the recent public meeting, and the questions they presented at: <https://www.flagstaff.az.gov/4888/Land-Availability-Suitability-Study>

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**Open Space Commission**

6. C.

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

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

**DATE:** 07/28/2025

**SUBJECT:** Observatory Mesa Natural Area Renaming Consideration

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**STAFF RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

Decision Item.

Open Spaces Commissioners will share information and thoughts on the pros/cons of renaming the Observatory Mesa Natural Area.

**Executive Summary:**

This item is a continuation from the Open Spaces Commission June discussion to consider a formal name change for the Observatory Mesa Natural Area to better reflect its conservation status and ensure consistency within City code and public communications. The discussion will weigh the pros and cons of renaming the site, including the need to update signage, websites, and internal documents such as management plans.

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**Open Space Commission**

7. D.

**From:** Lori Reynolds, PROSE Admin Specialist

**DATE:** 07/28/2025

**SUBJECT:** [PROSE Monthly Newsletter](#)

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**STAFF RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

**Executive Summary:**

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**Attachments**

June 2025 Newsletter

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# PARKS, RECREATION, OPEN SPACE, AND EVENTS

JUNE 2025 NEWSLETTER

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

Deborah Harris prepares to cut the ribbon at the grand opening of Cleo Murdoch Park.



## Grand Opening of Cleo Murdoch Park

On June 11, PROSE proudly celebrated the grand opening of Cleo Murdoch Park—the first new park built in Flagstaff since 2004. The occasion was marked by a ribbon-cutting ceremony attended by Councilmembers Garcia and Spence, who shared heartfelt remarks honoring the surrounding neighborhood and recognizing the significance of this milestone for the community. Special recognition goes to Deborah Harris, Southside Community Ambassador and former Councilmember, whose longtime advocacy was instrumental in making this project a reality. Cleo Murdoch Park brings fresh energy to the area with thoughtfully designed amenities, including giant outdoor chess and permanent chess tables.

The park was made possible through funding from the Community Development Block Grant program. Following the ribbon-cutting, attendees enjoyed a Concert in the Park with Dub and Down with the Blues, filling the new space with music and celebration.



Chess tables & giant chess



Concert in the Park at Cleo Murdoch



Playground at Mobile Haven Park

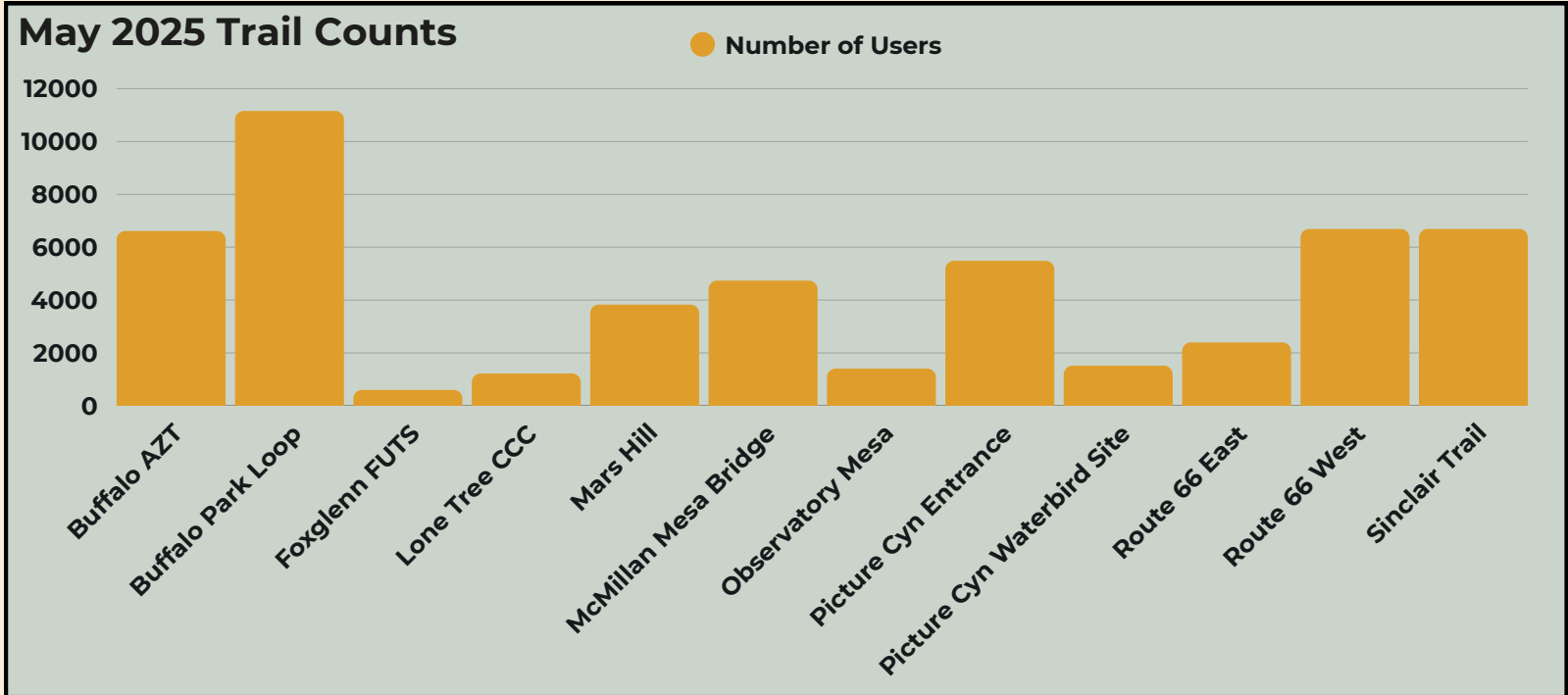
# PARKS

## New Playground at Mobile Haven Park

Exciting news for our youngest community members! A brand-new playground designed specifically for children ages 2–5 has been installed at Mobile Haven Park. This new addition beautifully complements the existing playground for ages 5–12, creating a cohesive and inclusive play space for families. The new play structure features a tunnel, two different slides, a climbing wall, musical elements, and more—offering a fun and engaging experience that supports both physical activity and creative play.



New playground at Mobile Haven Park





# RECREATION



Outdoor education activity with Open Space

## Summer Day Camp at the Aquaplex

Summer Day Camp is off to a great start at the Aquaplex. June alone welcomed 105 registered campers, with the highest weekly attendance reaching 34. In addition to classic summer fun, campers also enjoyed engaging educational experiences, thanks the Open Space team. This collaboration brought enriching outdoor programming to the camp, giving participants the chance to explore and learn about their natural surroundings in fun and meaningful ways.

## Summer in Full Swing at Hal Jensen Recreation Center



Group that attended Arizona Wranglers game

Hal Jensen Recreation Center has been busy with summer activities. Highlights include a Juneteenth Blood Drive, a Youth Resource & Sports Symposium in partnership with the Lived Black Experience, and exciting youth field trips—including a visit to an Arizona Wranglers game. The center also hosted a successful week of Summer Sports Camp, keeping kids active, engaged, and learning through play.



Summer Sports Camp

## Adult Hockey League at Jay Lively Activity Center

The Summer Adult Hockey League is off to a strong start with two divisions in full swing. Coed B features four teams with 46 players, while Coed D includes five teams and 68 players—for a total of 114 participants.



## Aquaplex Siding Project

The Aquaplex siding project is progressing smoothly, with over 75% of the total work now complete. Trim and seal work on the east side of the building has been fully finished, and siding installation along 4th Street is currently underway. The upgraded exterior is taking shape and will enhance both the appearance and durability of the facility.



New siding on 4<sup>th</sup> Street

# OPEN SPACE

## Cleaning Up Illegal Camps and Trash

Open Space staff have been working closely with the City's GIS Department, Police Department, and Park Ranger to identify and address illegal campsites and trash accumulation on Flagstaff's Open Space properties. Thanks to a report from one of our dedicated Open Space Stewards, a large trash pile—located far off-trail on Observatory Mesa—was recently cleaned up.

The steward and two friends joined Open Space for the successful removal effort, highlighting the power of community involvement in protecting our public lands.



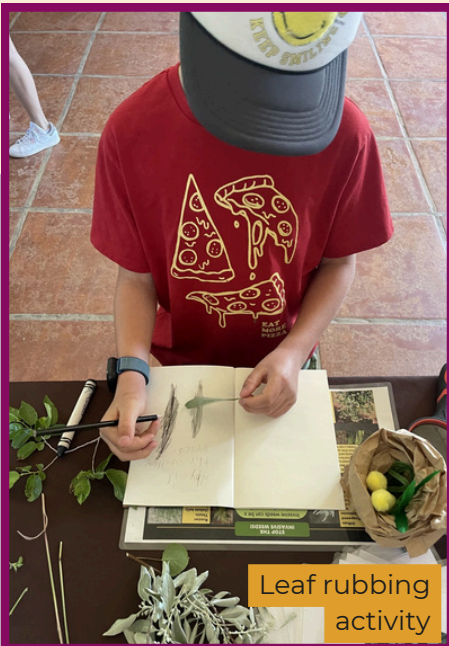
Campsite clean-up



Trash pile before clean-up



Trash pile after clean-up



Leaf rubbing activity

## Education & Field Trips

In June, Open Space staff participated in two engaging educational events to connect local youth with Flagstaff's natural environment. At Willow Bend's Science Saturday, around 30 participants explored the theme of Junior Naturalist. Open Space staff hosted a hands-on booth highlighting native plants found across Flagstaff's Open Space properties. Kids created leaf



Kids potting native seeds

rubbings in their nature journals and learned to identify common invasive weeds through a visual display. Additionally, staff led a Signs of Wildlife program for 43 participants from Forest Highlands Day Camp. The presentation introduced animal adaptations through real skulls and offered interactive stations with track and scat replicas, field guides, and track pads—giving campers a chance to practice observation skills in their field journals.

## Bug-Out at Frances Short Pond Event Success

This year's Bug Out event was a success, drawing 124 participants and featuring hands-on activities from four partner organizations. The NAU Bug Lab brought live insects and an educational display board, while the City's Sustainability Team offered a pollinator wheel game and native seed giveaways. Arizona Game & Fish gave kids the chance to explore aquatic macroinvertebrates found right in Frances Short Pond, and Open Space hosted a booth where participants learned about bee baths and created their own wildflower cups to take home.



Kids at Bug-Out

# Celebrate Parks & Recreation Month with PROSE!



## Celebrate National Parks & Recreation Month with PROSE!

This July, we're celebrating how parks, recreation, open space, and events help make Flagstaff a vibrant and resilient community. Enjoy fun, inclusive activities all month long—from Touch A Truck and the Aquaplex Pool Party to the Summer Luau, Full Moon Bike Ride, and more.

Don't miss our grand finale:  
**Build Together, Play Together** at Hal Jensen! Whether you join us at an event or visit your favorite park, we hope you'll celebrate!

**Parks & Recreation Month Events**  
Click here for details about our events!  
<https://flagstaff.az.gov/5124/Parks-Recreation-Month>

**PARKS & RECREATION MONTH FLAGSTAFF AQUAPLEX**

# MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

**JULY 1<sup>st</sup> - 31<sup>st</sup>**

**20% OFF** General/Regular Memberships

**25% OFF** Business Pass Memberships

Hal Jensen Recreation Center Presents:

# TOUCH A TRUCK

**Saturday, July 12th**  
**8:00 AM - 12:00 PM**  
**Coconino High School (North Parking Lot)**

**PROSE Jay Lively Activity Center**

## ADULT BEGINNER HOCKEY CLINIC

Join us for a one-time beginner clinic designed for adults new to the sport. Learn the basics of skating, passing, shooting, and more through fun, supportive drills. No experience necessary.

**Ages 18+**  
**Saturday, July 19th**  
**12:00 PM - 1:00 PM**  
Jay Lively Activity Center

CLICK TO REGISTER ONLINE

**\$20 PARTICIPANT**

928-215-2344

Special Olympics Arizona

**PROSE Jay Lively Activity Center**

## AQUAPLEX POOL PARTY

**Sunday, July 20th**  
**10:00 AM - 2:00 PM**

**\$5 TO ENTER**

mini golf fun crafts  
pool games music  
obstacle courses and more!

Join Open Space for July's

## FULL MOON BIKE RIDE

**Buffalo Park / McMillan Mesa**  
(meet at the Buffalo statue)

**Thursday, July 10th**  
**7:30 PM - 9:30 PM**

**PROSE Jay Lively Activity Center**

# SUMMER LUAU

**Wednesday, July 16<sup>th</sup>**  
**5:30 PM - 8:00 PM**  
Jay Lively Activity Center Ice Rink

Shake off the summer heat on the ice at Jay Lively! Hawaiian shirts, straw hats and grass skirts encouraged!

REGULAR ENTRY FEES APPLY

**JOE C. MONTOYA COMMUNITY & SENIOR CENTER**

## OPEN HOUSE

A Parks and Recreation Month Event

**Saturday, July 26**  
**10:00 AM - 2:00 PM**  
**245 N. THORPE RD. Flagstaff, AZ 86001**

Tour the Center, try sample classes, and meet the staff!

**30-45 MIN SAMPLE CLASS SCHEDULE**

- 10 AM - Stand Tall Don't Fall
- 10 AM - Chair Yoga
- 11 AM - Senior Stretch & Mobility
- 11 AM - Wisdom Seekers
- 12 PM - Tai Chi
- 1 PM - Chair Yoga

**PROSE PEPSI**

# BUILD TOGETHER PLAY TOGETHER

A PARKS & RECREATION MONTH EVENT

**FREE**

**SATURDAY, JULY 26<sup>TH</sup>**  
**8:00 AM - 12:00 PM**

**HAL JENSEN RECREATION CENTER**

BUILD SOMETHING BUBBLE WITH THE HOME DEPOT PARTY  
PLAY FUN YARD GAMES AND MORE!