



PARKS, RECREATION, OPEN SPACE, AND EVENTS

JULY 2025 NEWSLETTER

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

Spectators enjoying the Drone Show at
Coconino High School



The drones before launch

Fourth of July Drone Show

PROSE launched Parks and Recreation Month in spectacular fashion with Flagstaff's first-ever Fourth of July Drone Show! In partnership with Economic Vitality, the event brought a fresh and innovative celebration to the community. After a competitive selection process, Open Sky Productions LLC was chosen to deliver the show. Coconino High School served as the ideal launch site, providing great views for the Sunnyside neighborhood, Buffalo Park, and McMillan Mesa. The show featured stunning drone displays choreographed to a custom soundtrack, showcasing Flagstaff's rich history, Native American heritage, and patriotic themes. Residents and visitors alike gathered to witness the one-of-a-kind experience, marking what we hope is the beginning of a new annual tradition.



Route 66 100th



McMillan Mesa Park

PARKS

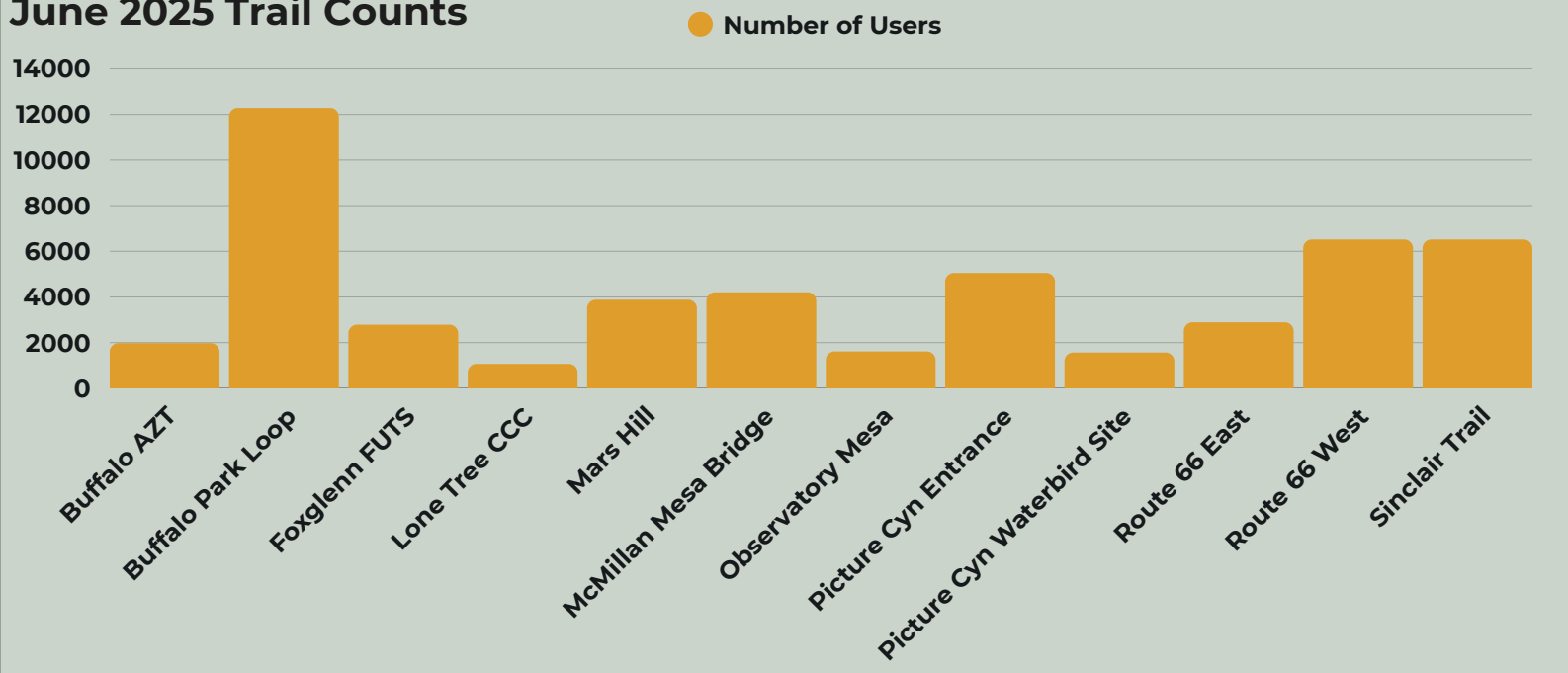
Removal of Hazardous Tree at Bushmaster Park

This month, Parks partnered with the City’s Wildland Fire Crew to successfully remove a large dead ponderosa pine tree located near the playground at Bushmaster Park. The hazardous tree posed a safety concern for park visitors. Rather than contracting the work externally, this collaborative effort served a dual purpose: eliminating a public safety hazard while also providing a valuable training opportunity for both the Parks team and Wildland Fire personnel. This is a great example of interdepartmental teamwork benefiting both the community and city staff.



Down tree at Bushmaster Park

June 2025 Trail Counts



PARKS & RECREATION MONTH IN REVIEW

Touch A Truck

This year's Touch-A-Truck was a tremendous success with over 1,200 people in attendance! Special thanks to Andrew Edwards, Recreation Coordinator I at Hal Jensen Recreation Center, for his outstanding work in coordinating vendors and assembling an impressive lineup of 38 vehicles. We are grateful for the enthusiastic participation from local businesses and several City departments, including Streets, Jay Lively Activity Center, Water Services, Parks, Fire, and Police, who helped make this event exciting and memorable for families across Flagstaff.



Touch A Truck



Dance party with the Special Olympics

Aquaplex Pool Party

Nearly 200 community members joined in the fun at the Aquaplex Pool Party, held intentionally on a Sunday to spotlight the facility's new weekend hours. Guests enjoyed swimming, mini golf, an all-abilities obstacle course, face painting, and even helped paint new garden boxes—adding both color and community spirit to the event.

Jay Lively Activity Center Summer Luau, Tournament & Hockey Clinic

July was packed with activities at Jay Lively Activity Center. The Luau Skate brought a good crowd to the rink, with about half the skaters dressing up for the occasion. The Mountain Mashup adult hockey tournament had 44 participants and evenly matched teams—each team walked away with at least one win and one loss. The Beginner's Hockey Clinic welcomed ten new players, who expressed enthusiasm and appreciation for the opportunity. Due to strong interest, staff is exploring options for future clinics.



Build Together, Play Together Event

PROSE celebrated the end of Parks & Recreation Month with a brand-new Build Together, Play Together event. This was a collaborative effort from Recreation Coordinators across all four recreation centers, along with support from Events, Marketing, and Athletics. Thanks to The Home Depot, kids and families had the opportunity to build projects together with hands-on kits. The event also featured bubbles, yard games, crafts, a mini-golf course, and more! Community partners including the Flagstaff Police Department, Flagstaff Fire Department, Scoop There It Is Ice Cream, and Soul Coffee added to the festive atmosphere. Over the course of the day, approximately 250 attendees joined the fun, making this event a big success.



Build-it kits with The Home Depot

Joe C. Montoya Community & Senior Center Open House

The Joe C. Montoya Community & Senior Center Open House welcomed around 100 guests throughout the day. Visitors toured the facility, met staff, and participated in a selection of popular classes. Attendees had the opportunity to sample programs such as Stand Tall Don't Fall, Chair Yoga, Senior Stretch & Mobility, Wisdom Seekers, and Tai Chi—offering a well-rounded glimpse into the wellness and enrichment opportunities available at the center year-round.



Chair Yoga class

OPEN SPACE

Boys from Hal Jensen Recreation Center hunting for bugs during a hike with Open Space



Enjoying shade from an oak tree



Connecting Recreation Centers to Nature through Summer Partnerships

This summer, the Open Space Educator partnered with three recreation centers to provide fun, educational experiences that bring nature into the heart of our community programs.

- **Aquaplex:** Open Space programming complemented the Aquaplex's weekly summer camp themes by weaving in hands-on STEM

activities and nature-inspired crafts, helping participants explore the natural world in engaging, creative ways.

- **Hal Jensen Recreation Center:** Each week, Open Space led field trips for Hal Jensen's summer visitors, offering elementary and middle school students the chance to discover Flagstaff's open spaces through outdoor exploration.
- **Joe C. Montoya Community & Senior Center:** Following the monthly Sit and Stretch class, Open Space began offering guided walks on Observatory Mesa. These walks invite participants to connect with nature while learning about the mesa's unique ecology and geology.

By integrating nature-based education into recreation programs, PROSE continues to foster curiosity, wellness, and environmental stewardship across all ages.

Drawing activity... can you guess where this hike was?



Examining a wax-currant berry



Learning to use a compass

Mid-hike 'sound-scape' activity



PHOTOS FROM PARKS & RECREATION MONTH

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Hal Jensen Supervisor,
Crystal, handing out hats
at Touch-A Truck



A child waves inside the EZ-Liner Truck

Testing out the
intercom



Rec Coordinator David on the
tractor



Child smiling inside
ADOT tractor



Pool Party
community tree



Mini-golf!



Psyched inside the parachute



Special Olympics
obstacle course



Aquaplex
Supervisor Kyle
shows off his
face-paint



Grass Volleyball at dusk





Concert at Cheshire Park featuring Sleep Stampede



Kids dance to Wild World Irish Fiddle at Smokerise Park



Kid samples an apple from a tree at Jim Cullen Park during the last Concert featuring Optimal Delusion



Two kids play a game of giant chess



Mini-golf



Rec Coordinator Andrew takes part in the build-together fun



Yard games at the Build Together, Play Together event