

NOTICE AND AGENDA

OPEN SPACES COMMISSION
MONDAY
OCTOBER 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 Commissioners may be in attendance through other technological means.

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

3. **Land Acknowledgment**

The Flagstaff Open Spaces 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 [August 25, 2025](#), [September 8, 2025](#) (Special Open Spaces Commission Meeting), and [September 22, 2025](#) (Joint Parks & Recreation / Open Spaces Commission Meeting) 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 Update**

On Thursday, October 9, the Flagstaff City Council voted to adopt the Flagstaff Regional Land Use Plan 2045 with a list of Conditions of Approval and an Errata document. You can view a recording of the meeting at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dT5vrGv9LbE>. The Open Spaces Commission will review the City Council's decisions as they pertain to the Open Spaces Commission's recommendations.

- B. **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 and may provide a recommendation to the Open Space Section.

- C. **November/December Open Spaces Commission Meeting Date Selection**

Decision Item. Select future meeting date(s) to accommodate holidays.

- D. Open Space Management Updates
This is an information item.

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 ([September 2025](#))

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 Wednesday, October 22, at 1 p.m. This notice has been posted on the City's website and can be downloaded at www.flagstaff.az.gov.

Dated this 22nd day of October, 2025.

Lori Reynolds

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) 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: 10/27/2025

SUBJECT: Approval of [August 25, 2025](#), [September 8, 2025](#) (Special Open Spaces Commission Meeting), and [September 22, 2025](#) (Joint Parks & Recreation / Open Spaces Commission Meeting) Minutes.

STAFF RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Executive Summary:

Attachments

August 25, 2025 Minutes
September 8, 2025 Minutes
September 22, 2025 Minutes

MINUTES

OPEN SPACES COMMISSION
MONDAY
AUGUST 25, 2025

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

1. Call to Order

Chair Jacqueline Thomas motioned to call the meeting to order at 4:04 PM.

2. Roll Call

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

Chair Jacqueline Thomas, Present
Co-Chair Bruce Fox, Present
Commissioner William Kluwin, Present
Commissioner Molly Joyce, Absent

Commissioner Lina Wallen, Present
Commissioner Nat White, Present
Commissioner Mary Norton (P&Z Liaison), Present
(virtual)
Councilmember Rep: David Spence, Present

Staff Present: Rebecca Sayers, Robert Wallace, Sylvia Struss, Lori Reynolds (virtual), Sara Dechter, Elsa Erling, Martin Ince (virtual)

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.

Chair Thomas read the land acknowledgement.

4. Approval of June and July Open Spaces Commission Minutes

A. [Approval of June 23, 2025 Minutes](#)

Commissioner Fox motioned to approve the June and July Open Spaces Commission Minutes. Commissioner White seconded the motion. All board members approved.

B. [Approval of July 28, 2025 Minutes](#)

Commissioner Fox motioned to approve the June and July Open Spaces Commission Minutes. Commissioner White seconded the motion. All board members approved.

5. Open Call to the Public

Chair Thomas read the Open Call to the Public statement. No public comments were received.

6. Business Items

A. Regional Plan Review and Recommendations

Robert Wallace began the review of the Regional Land Use Plan draft by introducing commissioners to City of Flagstaff, Neighborhood Planning Manager, Sarah Dechter who is the project lead and would be providing commissioners with feedback and comments on their suggestions for modifications to the Regional Land Use Plan. Sarah stressed the importance of

sending in comments on the draft Regional Land Use Plan in a timely manner and to the correct email (RegionalPlan45Comments@flagstaffaz.gov). She also noted that with this draft of the Regional Land Use Plan, they have been working with over 2000 public comments and over 800 internal staff comments.

Chair Thomas began the Commission's presentation of their comments on the Regional Plan. The Commission went through each question and comment that they had identified, condensed to 14 points for revision consideration. Revision topics are listed below.

1. Balancing "core priorities" directive so that Open Space is not de-prioritized in project decisions.
2. Recognizing the importance of the Flagstaff Urban Trail System in the policy section, not just transportation, and require it to be thoughtfully located through new developments.
3. Make 10-minute walking, access to parks or open spaces, a policy target.
4. Clarification of Map 3-1 and associated text to avoid the impression that only one geographical type is considered for open space.
5. Brown box text, Chapter 3, p. 3-12: revision of text about "City-owned parcels with open space dedications."
6. Avoid limiting the terms of conservation to "significant" or "uncommon" resources only.
7. Re-framing Policy OS.2 so that it does not read as "open space only where development can't go."
8. Update to the Policy Map designations and trail continuity in Chapter 4.
9. Update the viewshed responsibility language in Chapter 7.
10. Request that Ponderosa Pine tree stands be mapped and managed.
11. State that the "integration" of Open Space is as important as "access" in Chapter 8.
12. Strengthen Chapter 8's action items and timelines.
13. Recommendation on implementation tools such as incentives, density bonuses, partnerships and expedited reviews to encourage developers to incorporate the 10-minute walking access standard.
14. Revision of glossary terms: Parks, Active, Passive Recreation.

Commissioners and Sarah Dechter had an extensive back-and-forth conversation on each of the topics before concluding their discussion of the Regional Land Use Plan. Sarah told Commissioners that no decisions would be made at the September 10th public hearing with the City Planning and Zoning Commission. Robert asked if the Commission could present at any of the upcoming meetings. Sarah replied that the Commission should submit their comments in writing and then present a brief summary at the meeting on September 10th.

It was decided that the Commission would need additional time to brainstorm and revise their Regional Plan comments document. Commissioner's plan to update the document to reflect an abbreviated set of comments as some were already covered by Sarah at today's meeting. To vote upon their updated Regional Plans comments, the Commission decided to hold a special meeting on September 8th at 4 PM -- virtual only.

B. LASS/CAP Code Concepts Report Review and Recommendations

Review and recommendations of the LASS/CAP Code Concepts Report have been deferred to a future commission meeting.

7. Reports and Updates

A. Council Representative Report, Council Representative David Spence

Councilmember Spence's report has been deferred to the September 22nd commission meeting.

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

Commission Representative Norton did not have any additional information to share.

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

The August Open Spaces Management Report has been deferred to the September 22nd commission meeting.

D. PROSE Monthly Newsletter, July 2025

Review of the July monthly PROSE newsletter was deferred to the September 22nd commission meeting.

8. Informational Items To and From Commissioners and Staff

Robert Wallace shared with commissioners that the reclaimed water agreement would be going to city council on September 9th. He also reminded commissioners that the next scheduled meeting on September 22nd will be a joint meeting with the Parks and Recreation Commission.

9. Potential Future Agenda Items

10. Adjournment

Chair Thomas motioned to adjourn the meeting. The meeting ended at 6:45 PM.

MINUTES

OPEN SPACES COMMISSION
MONDAY
SEPTEMBER 8, 2025

ONLINE MEETING ONLY (via Microsoft Teams)
[MICROSOFT TEAMS](#)
4:00 P.M.

1. Call to Order

Chair Thomas called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM.

2. Roll Call

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

Chair Jacqueline Thomas: Present	Commissioner Molly Joyce: Present
Co-Chair Bruce Fox: Present	Commissioner Lina Wallen: Present
Commissioner Mary Norton (P&Z Liaison): Present	Commissioner Nat White: Absent
Commissioner William Kluwin: Present	Councilmember Rep. David Spence: Absent

Staff Present: Rebecca Sayers (PROSE Director), Robert Wallace (Open Space Supervisor), Lori Reynolds (PROSE Administrative Specialist), Martin Ince (Transportation Planner Senior Lead)

3. Land Acknowledgment

The Flagstaff Open Spaces 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.

Read by Chair Thomas.

4. Open Call to the Public

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.

Read by Chair Thomas. No public comments were received.

5. Business Items

A. Regional Plan Review and Recommendations

Chair Thomas shared a brief overview on what the meeting would be covering, including a final review of the Commission's recommendations for the Regional Plan draft and selecting a Commissioner who will present at the upcoming Planning and Zoning Commission meetings. Robert Wallace shared that he had worked with both Chair Thomas and Co-Chair Fox on revisions the previous week, as well as meeting with Sara Dechter who provided additional comments on the Commission's recommendations. To begin the final discussion and review of the Commission's recommendations, Robert shared on the Teams meeting a copy of the draft letter from Commissioners that included the list of recommendations they came up with at the previous meeting on August 25th.

Additional comments made on the list of recommendations:

1. Edit "non-negotiable" statement in Chapter 3, p. 3-1.
 - Commissioners discussed alternative word choices such as 'declared', 'balanced', 'primary', or 'important'.
 - Keeping this recommendation with additional edits.
2. Recognizing the importance of the Flagstaff Urban Trail System (FUTS) in the policy section, not just Transportation. Revision in Chapter 3, p. 3-9.
 - Commissioners discussed prioritizing the accessibility and connectivity of FUTS. Including a section on it outside of Transportation would help recognize the importance of FUTS, and it's integration with other trails.
 - Keeping this recommendation with additional edits.
3. Make the 1/4 mile to 1/3 mile Walking Access Standard a policy target. Chapter 3, p. 3-10
 - Amy Hagin provided input from a parks and recreation perspective that keeping reference to the 10-Minute Walking Access Standard would be more beneficial as that is the national benchmark for equitable access to open spaces and parks.
 - Keeping this recommendation with reference to the 10-Minute Walking Distance.
4. Clarification to Map 3-1 and related text. Chapter 3, p. 3-11, Map 3-1.
 - Keeping this recommendation.
5. Revision to Policy PROSE.4. Chapter 3, p. 3-12.
 - Commissioners discussed changing the wording surrounding Interagency coordination.
6. Reframe Policy OS.2 to not read as "open space only where development can't go." Chapter 3, p. 3-14.
 - Keeping this recommendation.
7. Fix the Policy Map designation to acknowledge trail continuity as a top priority connection. Chapter 4, p. 4-9 and 4-10. Map 4-1 and 4-2.
 - Commissioners discussed the impacts that different zoning types and private land ownership have in relation to Open Space access.
 - Keeping this recommendation and additional edits.
8. Remove the reference to private parcels over 400 acres. Chapter 4, p. 4-37.
 - Keeping this recommendation
9. Reframe the map disclaimer to ensure trails are included in the design. Chapter 4, p. 4-37 and 4-38.
 - Keeping this recommendation with additional edits to the disclaimer statement.
10. Add missing existing trail right-of-way access to map 4-6. Chapter 4.
 - Keeping this recommendation
11. Add trail access points and trailheads to map 4-5. Chapter 4.
 - Keeping this recommendation
12. Update the bikeway policy plan map. Chapter 4, p. 4-39, Map 4-7.
 - Commissioners commented that any new roads planned in the future should include bikeways.
 - Keeping this recommendation
13. Recognize the importance of FUTS and other trails in Chapter 4, and require it to be added throughout new developments.
 - Keeping this recommendation.
14. Making "integration" as important as "access" in neighborhood policy.
 - A recommendation was made by Robert to update the proposed sentence change.
 - Keeping this recommendation with the addition of Robert's update.
15. Strengthen Chapter 8 action items and timelines.
 - Keeping this recommendation.
16. Map stands of ponderosa pine.
 - Commissioners discussed various viewpoints on the need to map ponderosa pine and the goal of having a community tree inventory.
 - Commissioners remained in favor of keeping this item as ponderosa pine is one of Flagstaff's largest natural resources.
17. Recommendation on Implementation Tools.
 - Keeping this recommendation, but combining it with #15 to strengthen Chapter 8 action items and timelines.

Following the Commission's discussion of the recommendations, Robert shared with them the draft letter for City Council. Conversation followed on who from the Commission would speak at the upcoming meetings.

Commissioner William Kluwin, motioned to approve the September 8, 2025 letter of recommendation with the identified edits and corrections. Commissioner Bruce Fox seconded the motion. All commissioners present approved the motion.

Commissioner Kluwin motioned to approved the presentation summary of the Regional Plan with the suggested edits and corrections, authorizing its use by the commission's designee when presenting to the Planning and Zoning Commission and City Council. Commissioner Bruce Fox seconded the motion. All commissioners present approved the motion.

Commissioner Kluwin and Co-Chair Fox volunteered to present at the following meetings:

- September 24th, Public Hearing #2 (City Planning and Zoning Commission): Commissioner Kluwin
- October 9th, City Council Public Hearing: Co-Chair Fox.

6. Informational Items To and From Commissioners and Staff

Robert shared a brief update with Commissioners that the Bow and Arrow agreement, part of a draft Resolution, would be presented to City Council on September 9th.

7. Potential Future Agenda Items

No future agenda items were discussed at this meeting.

8. Adjournment

Chair Thomas adjourned the meeting at 6:15 PM.

MINUTES

JOINT PARKS & RECREATION / OPEN SPACES COMMISSION
MONDAY
SEPTEMBER 22, 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.

OPEN SPACE

Chair Jacqueline Thomas (Present)
Co-Chair Bruce Fox (Virtual, Present)
Commissioner Mary Norton, P&Z
Liaison, (Present)
Commissioner Molly Joyce (Virtual, Present)
Commissioner Lina Wallen (Present)
Commissioner Nat White (Present)
Commissioner William Kluwin (Present)
Councilmember Rep. David
Spence (Present)

PARKS AND REC

Chair Stephen Parsons (Present)
Co-Chair Austin Kerr (Present)
Commissioner Neil Frazier (Present)
Commissioner Camile Diab (Absent)
Commissioner Lisa Lamberson
(Virtual, Present)
Commissioner Jill
Christensen (Present)
Commissioner Josh Stackhouse
(Present)
Councilmember Rep. Anthony Garcia
(Virtual, Present)

Staff present: Rebecca Sayers (PROSE Director), Amy Hagin (Assistant PROSE Director), Tyrone Johnson (Recreation Manager) Virtual, Robert Wallace (Open Space Supervisor), Lori Reynolds (PROSE Administrative Specialist), Sylvia Struss (Open Space Coordinator), Sarah Holditch (Events and Marketing Coordinator) Virtual, and Ashlee Fliney (Open Space Coordinator)

3. Land Acknowledgment

The Flagstaff Open Spaces and Parks and Recreation Commissions humbly acknowledge 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.

Chair Parsons read the Land Acknowledgment.

4. Approval of Minutes

Approval of Open Spaces Commission and Parks and Recreation Commission minutes have been deferred to each commission's next individual meeting in October.

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.

Chair Parsons read the public comment statement. No comments were received.

6. Business Items

A. *Flagstaff Regional Land Use Plan 2045 Update*

Robert Wallace, PROSE Open Space Supervisor, shared with both commissions an update on the Open Spaces Commission decision to review and submit recommendations on the draft Regional Plan. He said that the Open Spaces Commission had also nominated various commission members to present at upcoming Planning and Zoning Commission meetings and City Council. The Open Spaces Commission's recommendations on the draft plan have been submitted and will be discussed at the Planning and Zoning Public Hearing on September 24, 2025. Chair Thomas, who presented at the Planning and Zoning Commission meeting on September 10th, shared the commission's three main points:

1. A need to ensure that open space is integrated into the plan in a way that better aligns with the core priorities of housing and climate and provides a better balance.
2. The need to guide development so it helps deliver the things that the community values, such as parks, trails and access points, and open spaces. Specifically, the Open Spaces Commission recommended map updates that pertain to open space needs for the community.
3. A recommendation to correct the Future Growth illustration maps to prevent the loss of a top priority trail corridor between the Rio de Flag Water Reclamation Plan and Forest Service land. Currently, the Future Growth illustration map proposes a Suburban Center within the trail corridor, including a medium-to-high density of people, residences, jobs and activities. Development goals for this zoning type may not support the long-standing trail corridor priority.

The discussion items that the Planning and Zoning Commission votes on and approves will become part of their recommendations of approval for City Council's consideration at the October 9th City Council meeting.

No further questions or comments from Commissioners.

B. PROSE Capital Improvement Project Overview

Amy Hagin shared on the presentation screen in the meeting room, [a table with all major projects from this fiscal year \(FY26\)](#) -- including projects from upcoming fiscal years (BBB fund and capital-funded projects). The table combined various PROSE projects that applied to both Open Spaces and Parks and Recreation Commissions.

- Parks & Recreation: Bushmaster Park sports court project has a projected completion time of November 2025.
- Parks & Recreation: Hal Jensen Recreation Center air conditioning: Design for adding AC throughout the entire building has been done. The AC will first be installed in the gymnasium with plans for future AC installation happening when additional funds are available for more units.
- Parks & Recreation: Highland Mesa, a new park near the Boulder Pointe neighborhood, has funding for development with the hope to be completed by FY27. The project is currently in the concept design stage.
- Parks & Recreation: Heritage Square restroom remodel. The two restrooms have been seeing ongoing misuse. With this upcoming remodel project, PROSE staff hope to change the restroom layout, and as a result, also see changes in the type of restroom use behaviors. Staff have been working with the Downtown Business Alliance and other entities to make the restrooms a better space for all users.
- Parks & Recreation: Annual playground equipment replacement. An ongoing project that tackles replacing outdated playground equipment that is in need of replacement.
- Parks & Recreation: Cheshire Park expansion project. The future home of a running track and multipurpose field. There is a need within the community for a public running track as there is no other public running track available. PROSE staff are looking into a possible grant to leverage this project that would include a permanent restroom. Commissioners voiced concerns regarding the impact that lighting for the track may have on the community's dark sky designation and if the turf for the track could cause unwanted heat impacts to the neighborhood and nearby wetlands. Amy replied to each, justifying that the lighting would

remain dark-sky compliant, and that they have weighed various options for turf versus non-turf and while that is not solidified yet, they are leaning towards artificial turf.

- Parks & Recreation: Ponderosa Park reconstruction project. Impacted by the flooding from the Museum Fire scar, Ponderosa Park will undergo reconstruction in FY26/27.
- Open Spaces: McMillan Mesa Trails. Robert Wallace shared that this project would include trail repair and upkeep.
- Parks & Recreation: Continental Park future expansion project. Amy shared that the park is a heavily used location with the potential to expand to upwards of 86 acres. The City owns a narrow strip of land north of the park, extending to I-40. PROSE has projected the project to begin with 3 million dollars and would cover at least two fiscal years, with most of that money going to the initial design of the additional 86 acres and possible easements they would need to acquire.
- Open Spaces: Trail repairs, FUTS connections, and land acquisitions.
 - Picture Canyon Trail Connection. This project will work to secure needed easements to permit the construction of a trail to the Picture Canyon Preserve from Route 66. This will improve access and make progress towards providing 10-minute walking access to open space for residents. The project would take place in FY2027-2028.
 - Land Acquisition. This project would provide approximately \$800,000 in FY 28 to help acquire property that is integral to the Open Space System, such as Regional Preserves, Connectors, and Complementary lands, to create an integrated network of open space throughout the community to provide equitable access and recreational opportunities.
 - Observatory Mesa Natural Area Plan. This project is projected to stretch across several fiscal years from 2028 through 2035, and will consist of restoration of unauthorized routes, updating signage, creating new trails, and developing basic trailhead amenities. Currently, PROSE staff are working to produce a support trail corridor. Next year, they anticipate applying for a permit with the Coconino National Forest, which would support the project's implementation.
 - McMillan Mesa Property Restoration, FY 29. This project will work to restore property with attention to erosion control, addressing unauthorized trails, providing tree buffer between development and the urban trail system, and mitigating invasive plants.

C. PROSE Master Plan Update

Rebecca Sayers shared that PROSE would begin working on a master plan project within the upcoming year. This master plan would expand upon their current Parks and Recreation plan to include both Open Spaces and Events. This will be a comprehensive plan that will help PROSE better prioritize how they operate in the future by following a guide with set goal points that more accurately serves current PROSE operations. She added that they are working on the formal procurement and hope to be able to begin shortly after the start of 2026. Both commissions should anticipate heavy involvement in this process once a consultant group has been selected.

D. Flagstaff Urban Trail System (FUTS) Maintenance Update

Amy shared a Powerpoint presentation with the Commissions that highlighted various FUTS accomplishments this past summer. Roughly 8.5 miles of existing urban trail sections received varying levels of repair with different types of treatment on asphalt. The presentation referenced various before and after photographs on the slideshow.

E. PROSE Division Collaborations

Amy provided a recap of the 4th of July Drone Show, highlighting the success of that event between both Open Space staff and Parks and Recreation staff coming together to make the event happen that is managed by the Events Section.

Open Space staff shared a collaborative project for invasive weed control that Open Space had been working on and will be wrapping up this Fall, associated with a Department of Forestry and Fire Management grant. They also mentioned a cross-division collaboration between Open Space and Parks staff that included-assisting with illegal campsite cleanup and new signage installations, weed work on varied city property, an arbor day tree plant scheduled to take place at Thorpe Park,

and educational collaborative efforts between Open Space and Recreation

7. City Council Liaison Reports - Councilmember Anthony Garcia and Councilmember David Spence

Open Spaces Councilmember Representative David Spence shared highlights of guided tours of PROSE properties that both commissions manage. He mentioned that on his tour of Continental Park, during the discussion of the park's expansion, he thought that the idea of an outdoor theater (something that is similar to the likes of Red Rock's theater in Colorado) could make a great addition. He concluded with sharing an update from City Council on sound mitigation measures at the new pickleball courts in Bushmaster Park.

Parks and Recreation Councilmember Representative Anthony Garcia shared information about their search for a new City Manager and that there would be a public outreach opportunity coming up for the position. He added that if anyone had any questions, they were welcome to reach out to him.

8. Reports -- Monthly highlights of Parks and Recreation, Open Space, and Events

Sylvia Struss, Open Space Coordinator, shared a brief highlight on Weed Pull Wednesdays. She estimated that they had collected at least 80 weed pull bags just from Picture Canyon. She also shared information on upcoming Open Space events including:

- Flagstaff's celebration of Arbor Day on September 23rd. They would be planting three Honey Locust Trees in Thorpe Park with a fourth grade class from Marshall Elementary School.
- October 6th's full moon hike at Picture Canyon led by Ashlee Fliney.
- TarantulaTrek on October 5th at McMillan Mesa's Loop Trail.

A. [PROSE Monthly Newsletter](#)

The August 2025 newsletter was reviewed. The Commissioners thanked Sarah Holditch for her work on each monthly newsletter.

9. Informational items to and from Commissioners and Staff

10. Potential Future Agenda Items

It was confirmed that the next joint meeting is tentatively scheduled for February 2026, focusing on BBB capital improvements. The exact date of the meeting is to be determined.

11. Adjournment

Parks and Recreation Commission Chair Parsons adjourned the meeting at 6:06 PM.



Open Space Commission

6. A.

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

From: Robert Wallace, Open Space Supervisor

DATE: 10/27/2025

SUBJECT: Regional Plan Update

STAFF RECOMMENDED ACTION:

On Thursday, October 9, the Flagstaff City Council voted to adopt the Flagstaff Regional Land Use Plan 2045 with a list of Conditions of Approval and an Errata document. You can view a recording of the meeting at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dT5vrGv9LbE>. The Open Spaces Commission will review the City Council's decisions as they pertain to the Open Spaces Commission's recommendations.

Executive Summary:

The Conditions of Approval and Errata direct staff to make several edits to the plan. City Council discussed and modified the recommendations by the Planning & Zoning Commission, which first reviewed and refined these lists.

Conditions of Approval with Council Modifications: Council voted to modify the conditions by removing three conditions (#11, #47, and #64) and adding two conditions that the Planning & Zoning Commission had previously discussed (#80 and #99).

Errata, as approved by Council: The approved Errata included the list of corrections reviewed by the Planning & Zoning Commission with an additional five edits in Chapter 9 and two edits in Chapter 2, which were identified after P&Z approval.

Next Steps:

Regional Plan Special Election: The Regional Plan adoption process is not over. City residents will have the opportunity to vote on the Regional Plan in May 2026. First, a revised version of the plan, with changes from the Conditions of Approval and Errata, will be published online in November. In May 2026, a ballot by mail special election will be held, and the Regional Plan will be on the ballot for ratification as the City's General Plan. More information on the special election will be shared in the coming weeks. Coconino County residents will not directly vote on adopting the Regional Plan. The County Board of Supervisors will hold public hearings on adopting the Regional Plan as an amendment to the Coconino County Comprehensive Plan. The public hearing dates will be scheduled after adoption of the Comprehensive Plan.

To learn more about the Regional Plan visit: www.flagstaff.az.gov/regionalplan2045

Attachments

Conditions_of_Approval_with_Council_Modifications
Errata

Flagstaff Regional Plan 2045

Planning and Zoning Commission with Council Modifications

NO	Chapter	PAGE	Original Comment	Change Description - Final Language	Recommended by	Add to Conditions	Vote	DECISION DATE	Staff Comments
21	3	1	Under "Core Priorities," revise second sentence to "... they make up the declared objectives that define..."	Under "Core Priorities," revise second sentence to "... they make up the objectives that define..." (Note: This is contingent on comment #64 and should only be considered if #64 is not approved.)	OS Commission	Yes	Unanimous	09/24/25	No staff recommendations.
23	3	1	Under "Core Priorities," revise final sentence to "...should address their conformance with the core and complementary priorities."	Delete the last sentence under Core Priorities.	OS Commission with staff recommendation	Yes	5-1 (1 abstained)	09/24/25	This suggestion could just be deleted as it is covered in Chapter 2.
1	2	8	Add a category #7 to Administrative Changes that states, "Changes to the Future Growth Illustration that match plan amendments and specific plans to the Flagstaff Regional Plan 2030 with effective dates after the adoption of the Flagstaff Regional Plan 2045 currently scheduled for October 9, 2025."	Same as original comment	Sara Dechter	Yes	Unanimous	09/10/25	Recommended after a conversation with F3 where we discussed what kind of applications might be submitted between adoption and ratification.
68	2		Add a statement to the plan clarifying how any conflicts between maps and text will be addressed.	Add a statement to the plan clarifying how any conflicts between maps and text will be addressed. Text overrides map.	Christine Sheehy	Yes	6-1	09/24/25	
4	4	9	Expand the Urban Center along both sides of Milton Rd southward to W Forest Meadows St.	Expand the Urban Center along both sides of Milton Rd southward to W Forest Meadows St. bounded to the west by Woodlands Village Blvd and including the Suburban Center parcels east of Milton Ave.	F3	Yes	Unanimous	09/10/25	Staff has some concern that breaking up this block to create an urban grid may take a decade or two. Other infrastructure could support urban environment over time per the HOH readiness study.
3	4	14	Under "All Categories," revise first guideline to "...areas already served by existing and future infrastructure and public facilities."	Under "All Categories," revise first guideline to "...areas already served by existing and planned infrastructure and public facilities."	F3 with edit from Commission	Yes	Unanimous	09/10/25	Staff recommended changing future in the comment letter to planned. F3 felt this was acceptable.
65	4	38	Regional Trails Plan. Came from regional trails strategy. Concerned about unauthorized trails included. The trails in the trails plan are on forest service land but have not been approved by the FS. Also trails on the Navajo Nation. These trails were not in the strategy that the plans data comes from. Request is that the map is updated to remove unauthorized trails from the Regional Plan.	Staff recommendation: Update the existing trails in the Regional Trails map and leave the planned trails that have not yet been authorized (for example, the Dry Lake Hills). Because the Observatory Mesa Trails Plan was recently adopted, the map should also be updated to reflect that document. Also recommend adding the short statement from the FFI that "Inclusion on this map does not imply formal approval for any individual projects."	Staff recommendation on based on Mike Popejoy (in person comment)	Yes	Unanimous	09/24/25	Staff recommends updating the existing trails in the Regional Trails map and leaving the planned trails that have not yet been authorized (for example, the Dry Lake Hills). Because the Observatory Mesa Trails Plan was recently adopted, the map should also be updated to reflect that document. Also recommend adding the short statement from the FFI that "Inclusion on this map does not imply formal approval for any individual projects."
71	4	38	If the map shows any illegally built (AKA "unauthorized") trails, these should be removed; otherwise the implication is that these trails are part of the regional plan and are authorized and open for legal use. Most of these trails are likely on USFS land.	Staff Recommendation: Create disclaimer for the map, see language proposed in comment #65.	Jen Blue	Yes	Unanimous	09/29/25	Staff recommends a disclaimer be created for the map. An interactive map can be created with more details but names would not be visible at this scale. Relates to vote on comment #65.
72	4	38	Is there language in the plan that details the USFS requirements for environmental review and analysis under the National Environmental Policy Act before planned trails can be implemented? If not, this should be included.	Staff Recommendation: Create disclaimer for the map, see language proposed in comment #65.	Jen Blue	Yes	Unanimous	09/29/25	Staff recommends a disclaimer be created for the map. Relates to vote on comment #65.
98	4	38	Include with the map language from the April 9, 2020 letter from the Coconino National Forest Supervisor regarding the 2020 Flagstaff Regional Trail Strategy, which states that the Forest Service has not provided authorization to proceed with construction or implementation of any proposed projects, and that specific projects will require more in-depth, site-specific environmental review and/or analysis under the National Environmental Policy Act before they can be implemented.	Staff Recommendation: Create disclaimer for the map, see language proposed in comment #65.	Mike Popejoy	Yes	Unanimous	09/29/25	Can add disclaimer to Regional Trails map. Relates to vote on comment #65.
36	4	39	Add disclaimer on the map that future arterial and collector roads will be incorporated into the bikeway network as they are planned as part of future development.	Staff Proposed Alternative: Future streets not depicted on Maps 4-3 and 4-7 will be assigned a bikeway hierarchy classification administratively by the City Engineering Department.	OS Commission	Yes	Unanimous	09/24/25	Staff Proposed Alternative: Future streets not depicted on Maps 4-3 and 4-7 will be assigned a bikeway hierarchy classification administratively by the City Engineering Department.
67	G	7	Revise the Paratransit definition to add "for people with disabilities who may be unable to use standard bus services."	Same as original comment	Russell Randall	Yes	Unanimous	09/24/25	Add by staff - Good addition staff recommends this edit.
92	G	7	Revise the Paratransit definition to add "for people with disabilities who may be unable to use standard bus services."	Same as original comment	Russell Randall	Yes	Unanimous	09/29/25	Duplicate comment that was voted on twice.
96	6	8	Add "vulnerable road users" to the glossary and use the FHWA definition: "non-motorists... people walking, bicycling, using mobility aids (such as wheelchairs), or using most micro-mobility devices (whether motorized or not)." Clarify existing in-text definitions in Ch. 6.	Add "vulnerable road users" to the glossary and direct staff to determine the appropriate definition so that the usage is consistent. Overrides previous vote on comment #109.	FBO	Yes	Unanimous	09/29/25	No staff recommendation. Also 6-1 and G
109	3	10	Include a definition for vulnerable road users that is more typically used in transportation planning and limited in scope. For example, the FHWA uses the term to refer to people who have less protection than occupants in motor vehicles, making them more susceptible to serious injury or death in a crash. This category specifically includes pedestrians, bicyclists, and others using personal conveyance devices such as wheelchairs, scooters, or micromobility devices... Policy TS.1 should be clear in that it prioritizes transportation for pedestrians, bicyclists, wheelchairs, scooters, and micromobility devices.	Discussed with related comments, see #96.	Bicycle Advisory Committee	Yes	Unanimous	09/29/25	No staff recommendation. Also G-, 3-10, 6-11
2	4	41	Add a gateway designation for Fourth St and Route 66	Same as original comment	F3	Yes	Unanimous	09/10/25	Support.
25	3	9	Add new DP.8: Design and align the Flagstaff Urban Trail System (FUTS) within new developments to create a natural experience that interconnects neighborhoods and increases safe, low-carbon consumption access to community infrastructure.	Staff proposed alternative: Policy TS.7: Design trail systems to provide safe and comfortable connections between trails that emphasize the natural setting and Landscapes and those that provide comfortable low carbon transportation within Neighborhoods, Districts and Centers.	Staff recommendation on based on OS Commission comment	Yes	6-1	09/24/25	Repeat of Comment 31 in a different location. The wording of this policy is inconsistent with the full breadth of FUTS contexts and uses terms that are unclear and not defined in the plan. There are locations where the FUTS is not in a natural setting such as along Route 66. A similar type of FUTS is expected along JW Powell. DP is also not the correct goal to attach this idea to. Staff Proposed alternative: Policy TS.7: Design trail systems to provide safe and comfortable connections between trails that emphasize the natural setting and Landscapes and those that provide comfortable low carbon transportation within Neighborhoods, Districts and Centers.

104	3	10	Revise TS.1 to "Prioritize accessibility for and the safety of vulnerable road users as the primary consideration..."	Same as original comment, add to Errata.	FBO	Yes	Unanimous	09/29/25	No staff recommendation. This was added to the Errata.
34	4	37	Add existing and planned access points and trailheads from the previous Regional Plan Map 26E to Policy Map 4-5 or include an additional map with these access points and trailheads.	Add planned access points and trailheads from the previous Regional Plan Map 26E to Policy Map 4-5 or include an additional map with these access points and trailheads.	OS Commission with staff recommendation	Yes	6-1	09/24/25	Staff recommends not adding existing points for readability at this map scale. Existing access points have permanent property rights already and infrastructure supporting them.
31	4	34	Under "Building Blocks: Active Transportation Plans," add final sentence: Trail design and alignment should integrate natural experiences that interconnect neighborhoods and increases safe, low-carbon access to community infrastructure.	Under "Building Blocks: Active Transportation Plans," add final sentence: Trail design and alignment should integrate natural experiences that interconnect neighborhoods and increases safe, low-carbon access to community infrastructure, where appropriate.	OS Commission with staff recommendation	Yes	Unanimous	09/24/25	Some Trails are not in natural areas and we would not want to miss trail connections in tighter infill locations. <i>Staff Recommended edit: Add "where appropriate" after experiences.</i>
26	3	10	Revise PROS.1: Provide parks and complementary open spaces within a 10-minute walk of all residents, prioritizing underserved...	Same as original comment	OS Commission	Yes	5-1 (1 abstained)	09/24/25	No staff recommendation.
27	3	11	Add a callout or asterisk on Map 3-1: "Parks and Open Space needs are not limited to areas addressed on the map."	Staff Proposed Alternative: "Map 3-1 only identifies needs for large scale parks and open spaces. Needs at a smaller geographic scale are identified in the appropriate Master Plan."	Staff recommendation based on OS Commission comment	Yes	Unanimous	09/24/25	<i>Proposed Alternative: Map 3-1 only identifies needs for large scale parks and open spaces. Needs at a smaller geographic scale are identified in the appropriate Master Plan.</i>
37	8	3	Add new sentence after the first sentence on the page: Future open spaces and parks should be placed through developments to meet system connectivity, be accessible for residents, maintain natural corridors, and support neighborhood livability. [Paragraph break]	Add new sentence after the first sentence on the page: Future open spaces and parks may be placed through developments to meet system connectivity, be accessible for residents, maintain natural corridors, and support neighborhood livability. [Paragraph break]	OS Commission with edit from Chair Mandino	Yes	Unanimous	09/24/25	"should" is not an appropriate verb in Chapter 8 as it is not a location for guidelines.
38	8	4	Revise first high priority action item to "Leverage available funding to negotiate for the purchase/dedication of greenfield lands for parks, open space, and trails in the John Wesley Powell Boulevard (JWP) extension area and other priority areas, to secure integrated alignments and sites." Update to "Short term."	Same as original comment	OS Commission	Yes	Unanimous	09/24/25	That is the intent as written. Agree to update to short term.
39	8	4	Revise 2nd high priority action item to "Pursue a County and/or City bond or financing mechanisms for regional park, recreation, open space initiatives, including operations and maintenance."	Same as original comment	OS Commission	Yes	Unanimous	09/24/25	No staff recommendation
40	8	4	Add regular action item: Develop a comprehensive tree inventory that adds native tree species, highlighting the Ponderosa pine stands, as a significant natural resource to the mapped resources section in Chapter 7, p. 7-8.	Same as original comment	OS Commission	Yes	Unanimous	09/24/25	No staff recommendation
107	10	1	Chapter 10: Energy and Climate Action makes the statement "The City's goal of achieving carbon neutrality is intrinsically linked to APS's carbon-free commitment" in the background section. Then again, in the "Clean Energy Production" section, the plan lauds APS for its commitment to renewable energy. A fundamental flaw with lying ourselves so strongly to APS is that APS's commitments may change... What will the city and county do if APS abandons its renewable energy goals? I believe this is a fundamental flaw that needs significant attention before the regional plan is adopted.	Remove specificity about APS's commitment in line with staff's revisions.	Valerie Piet	Yes	Unanimous	09/29/25	Sustainability should speak to this at the hearing. Also on p.10-3
66	9	8	Define GPCD (used in Figure 9-4) and add to Acronyms and Abbreviations list	Same as original comment	Charity Lee	Yes	Unanimous	09/24/25	Add by staff - Staff concurs. This got missed.
43	11	4	Page 11-4 cites a dam failure on Lower Lake Mary. The word "Dam" should be replaced or have a footnote that clarifies it was earthen berm, or a levee that failed at Lake Mary.	Same as original comment	Ian Sharp	Yes	Unanimous	09/24/25	Support - Confirmed with Ed Schenk in Stormwater and Daniel Kelly in Emergency Management. The term levee was preferred
45	G	1	Add to glossary - "1-percent Annual Chance Exceedance flood" or "100-year floodplain" and clarify whether the definition includes only FEMA floodplains or other regulatory floodplains adopted by the City.	Staff recommendation: Keep the language as is and add a subcategorized definition to the Glossary, such as: Floodplain: an area that floods seasonally, sometimes associated with a riparian area 1. Special Flood Hazard Area -.... 2. 1% annual change of flooding or 100-year floodplain..... 3. 0.2% annual chance of flooding or 500-year floodplain....	Ian Sharp with staff recommendation	Yes	Unanimous	09/24/25	Floodplain is a term used throughout the plan in a number of different contexts. It does not always refer to the 100 year floodplain. Staff recommends keeping the language as is and adding a subcategorized definition to the Glossary, such as: Floodplain: an area that floods seasonally, sometimes associated with a riparian area 1. Special Flood Hazard Area -.... 2. 1% annual change of flooding or 100-year floodplain..... 3. 0.2% annual chance of flooding or 500-year floodplain....
82	5	14	Add mention of mental health facilities including The Guidance Center, Southwest Behavioral, Terros, etc.	Same as original comment	Russell Randall	Yes	Unanimous	09/29/25	No staff recommendation
20	3	9	Add new best practice: Providing a variety of differently-sized public and private social spaces such as "public squares" where people can congregate, socialize, rest, people-watch, and enjoy life.	Same as original comment	F3	Yes	6-1	09/24/25	This would be difficult to require for a small infill parcel.
10	4	16	Add new guideline under "Design and Other Considerations": Activation of street fronts is desired. Blank or inactive walls are discouraged."	Same as original comment	F3	Yes	4-3	09/24/25	
99	7	2	Coordinate invasive and native plant plans, programs, and resources with regional, state, tribal, and federal partners focusing on the Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management Invasive Plants of Concern, the University of Arizona's Cooperative Extension, and those identified by the City Fire Departments and Local Fire Districts because of their impact on fire risk throughout the Region.	Same as original comment	Sat Best (written comment)	Yes		10/09/25	Native plants is too broad.
80	5	3	Under "Housing Insecurity," add a statement such as "This is likely to be especially true among members of the community who identify as having disabilities."	Same as original comment	Russell Randall	Yes		10/09/25	No staff recommendation

Errata
to
Flagstaff Regional Land Use Plan 2045
2025 Public Hearing Draft

Page	Location	Change
1-12	The Priorities of the Regional Plan	Correct spelling of “implmentation” to “implementation”
2-4	Policy Section – City only	Delete repeated word in "the the"
3-10	Policy TS.1	Revise wording of TS.1 to “Prioritize accessibility for and the safety of...”
3-10	Policy TS.4	Correct spelling of “appropriate” to “appropriate”
3-10	Policy PROS.4	Reformatted so that PROS.4 from the next page could fit
3-11	Map 3-1: Parks and Open Space	Changed bubbles to hatched
3-13	Natural Resource Stewardship Goal (RS)	Correct spelling of “Stewarship” to "Stewardship"
3-14	Best Practices for the Conservation of Significant Natural Resources	Deleted one Best Practice - “Discourage construction in the 100-year floodplain...” because it is duplicated by a guideline on 4-14.
3-16	Employment District Goal (ED)	Endnote 4 is in the wrong place.
4-9 and 4-10	Policy Map 4-1 and 4-2	Added aggregate mining locations to the Future Growth Illustration (to conform to statute)
4-13	Table of Zoning Compatibility for Each Land Use Category	In the legend, the abbreviation for Estate Residential should be updated to ER.
4-14	All Neighborhoods	Change period to comma in “Within all neighborhoods.”
4-14	Public Facilities and Infrastructure	Deleted guideline that duplicated Policy DP.5 - “Support the incorporation of nature-based infrastructure solutions in new development, parks, and open space to enhance climate resilience, manage stormwater, promote land-use efficiency, and reduce impacts to significant natural resources.”

4-27	Federal Lands and Working Landscapes	Moved endnote on access routes on USDA FS land to the appropriate location in the Federal Lands and Working Landscapes guidelines.
4-32 and 4-33	Rural Neighborhood and Figure 4-6	The order of these two pages was flipped.
4-37 and 4-38	Map 4-5 Urban Trails and Map 4-6 Regional Trails	Updated ASLD links
5-3	Housing Insecurity and Displacement	Changed “households are being pushed out” to “households may be pushed out.”
5-6	Housing Insecurity and Displacement	Correct spelling of “statues” to “status”
5-16	Food System and Food Security	Corrected “13.3 percent” to “13 percent.”
5-16	Foodscaping	Corrected spelling of “landscaping” to “landscaping”
6-5	Information Map 6-1	Transit route added
6-6	Transit	Correct spelling of “provie” to “provide”
6-6	Transit	Add space to correct “bicyclenetwork” to “bicycle network”
7-2	Dark Skies	Corrected spelling of “expeirence” to “experience.”
9-3	Figure 9-1	The figure caption was missing in the online version and was added back.
10-3	Clean Energy Production	Delete repetitive “to” from “into to”

Suggested Additions Post-Planning & Zoning Commission Approval

Page	Location	Change
2-4	Policy Section	NEW: Add “(County only)” to the first sentence, to read “Conformance... zoning map amendments (County only), and specific and area plans...”
2-4	Policy Section—City only	NEW: Add “only” to read “A zoning map amendment must conform only to the following:”
9-4	City of Flagstaff Water Sources	Add “Annually” to the sentence before the graph, to read “Annually, on average, 70 percent of the City’s water...”
9-4	Figure 9-2	Add “Annual” to the y-axis label (“Annual Acre-Feet Produced”) and to the figure caption (“Figure 9-2: Annual City Water Production...”)

9-4	City of Flagstaff Water Sources	Add “annually” to the second-to-last sentence on the page, to read “... between 25 and 50 percent of total water production annually, depending on climate conditions...”
9-5	Figure 9-3	Add “Annual” to the chart title, to read “City of Flagstaff Potable Water Sources Annual Average 2013-2022”
9-9	Information Map 9-9	Add “Exempt (>35 Gallons Per Minute)” to the legend to read “Exempt (>35 Gallons Per Minute) Groundwater Pumping Wells and Ownership”



Open Space Commission

6. B.

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

From: Robert Wallace, Open Space Supervisor

DATE: 10/27/2025

SUBJECT: Observatory Mesa Natural Area Renaming Consideration

STAFF RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Decision Item. Open Spaces Commissioners will share information and thoughts on the pros/cons of renaming the Observatory Mesa Natural Area and may provide a recommendation to the Open Space Section.

Executive Summary:

This item is a continuation from the Open Spaces Commission's 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 feedback from the City's Indigenous Commission.



Open Space Commission

6. C.

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

From: Robert Wallace, Open Space Supervisor

DATE: 10/27/2025

SUBJECT: November/December Open Spaces Commission Meeting Date Selection

STAFF RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Decision Item. Select future meeting date(s) to accommodate holidays.

Executive Summary:

The Open Spaces Commission's November and December meeting dates are scheduled during holiday weeks. The Commission will consider whether they would like to reschedule meeting dates for those months.



Open Space Commission

6. D.

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

From: Robert Wallace, Open Space Supervisor

DATE: 10/27/2025

SUBJECT: Open Space Management Updates

STAFF RECOMMENDED ACTION:

This is an information item.

Executive Summary:

This is an information item to provide the commission with updates and answer questions as they relate to open space and land conservation projects.



Open Space Commission

7. D.

From: Lori Reynolds, PROSE Admin Specialist

DATE: 10/27/2025

SUBJECT: PROSE Monthly Newsletter ([September 2025](#))

STAFF RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Executive Summary:

Attachments

PROSE September 2025 Newsletter

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



Ms. Kraus's 4th grade class



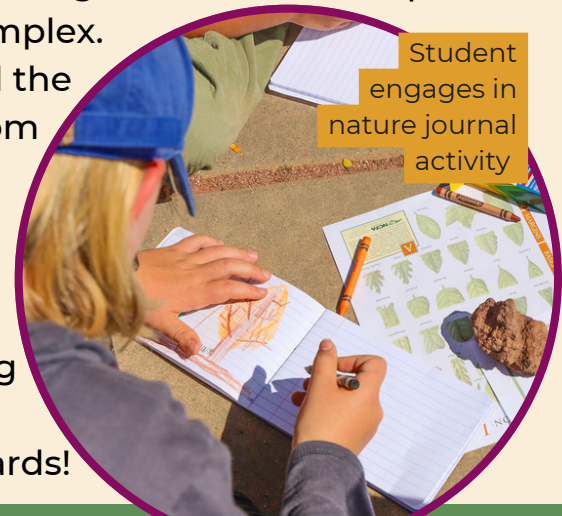
Students with
shovels of dirt
for the tree

Arbor Day Celebration at Thorpe Park Softball Complex

Parks and Open Space teamed up to celebrate Arbor Day and support the City of Flagstaff's recognition as a Tree City USA community with a special tree planting event at the Thorpe Park Softball Complex.

The Parks team provided three Honey Locust trees and led the planting with students from Ms. Kraus's 4th grade class from Marshall Elementary. The class walked over from their school where they learned how to shovel and pack soil around the base, and give water to the new trees.

After the trees were planted, the students completed a nature journal activity to reflect on what they learned. A big thank you to everyone who contributed to making this a memorable experience for our future environmental stewards!



Student
engages in
nature journal
activity

PARKS

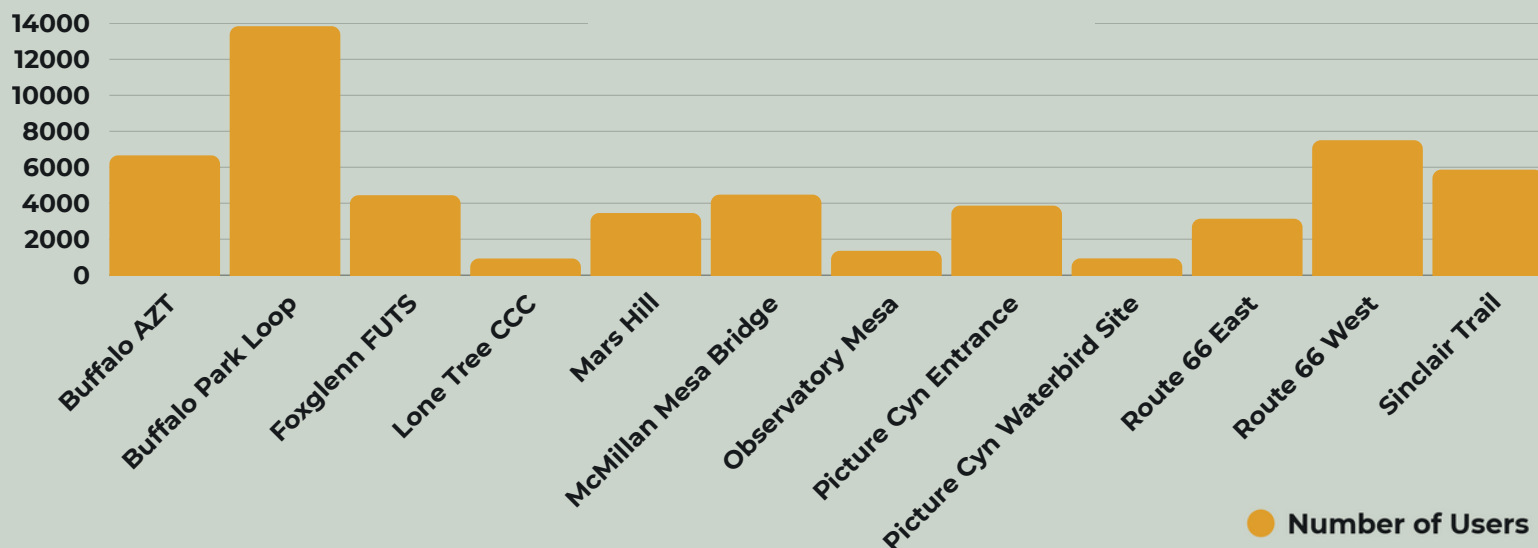
Staff Attend Arizona Parks and Recreation Association Conference

Four Parks team members recently attended the annual Arizona Parks and Recreation Association (APRA) Conference in Phoenix. The event offered valuable opportunities for professional development through educational sessions, networking, and vendor exhibits. The team returned energized and equipped with new knowledge, ideas, and resources to share with colleagues and enhance our programs and services.



Parks staff stand in front of Discover Flagstaff's billboard at the conference center in Downtown Phoenix.

August 2025 Trail Counts





RECREATION

New Fitness Equipment at the Aquaplex

The Aquaplex added several new pieces of fitness equipment based on member feedback. The new additions include a hip thrust machine for glute workouts, a Smith machine for safe, guided lifting, and a T-bar row machine for targeting back muscles. We also added another bench and replaced a broken recumbent bike. These upgrades expand our offerings to better serve users of all abilities.

Aquaplex Hosts Successful Women's Volleyball Tournament

The Aquaplex recently hosted a successful Women's Volleyball Tournament, with ten participating teams. The event was made possible in large part thanks to front desk staff member Ohiyah Shirley. As an active member of the local volleyball community, Ohiyah helped spread the word, took the lead on logistics, and ensured the



Smith machine



T-bar row machine



Hip thrust machine

event was both fun and well-organized. The tournament drew strong interest from the community, and due to its success, we're excited to announce that more volleyball tournaments will be coming in the future!

E-Bikes for Full-Time Employees

Thanks to the Sustainability team, PROSE now has two electric bikes available for full-time staff to use for work-related travel around the City. A big thank you to Open Space Coordinator Sylvia Stuss for leading a training session to ensure everyone feels confident and prepared to ride safely!



Recreation Manager, Tyrone Johnson with an E-Bike



Women's Volleyball



Volunteers with bags of invasive weeds

OPEN SPACE



Volunteers pulling Cheat Grass



Volunteers pulling weeds

Invasive Weed Pulls at Picture Canyon

Open Space wrapped up nine biweekly weed pull events, removing nearly 75 bags of invasive weeds such as Russian Thistle and Knapweed, and Cheat Grass. Volunteers also spread native grass and flower seeds to help restore the area.

Grandparent Walk at Observatory Mesa

Fourteen participants joined the Open Space Educator, Ashlee Fliney, for a scenic walk along the Mars Hill Trail. With binoculars, bug nets, and magnifying glasses in hand, we explored the mesa's natural wonders—spotting fresh acorns on Gambel

oaks, listening to birds in the Ponderosa pines, and

discovering beetles on wildflowers.

Science Saturday at Willow Bend: Wonderful Wildlife

Ashlee hosted an interactive booth featuring local wildlife found on Open Space properties. Kids examined skulls, eggs, and porcupine quills, and used binoculars to observe the Sinclair Wash below.

Science in the Park at Wheeler Park

As part of the Flagstaff Festival of Science, Open Space hosted a Plein Air Painting and Art booth. Over 230 visitors explored nature through art using colored pencils, markers, pastels, and watercolors while learning about Open Space.

Grandparent Walk at Observatory Mesa



Child using binoculars

Plein Air at painting at Wheeler Park



Science Saturday



EVENTS, MARKETING & ATHLETICS

Athletics Update

The second session of **Adult Softball** has officially wrapped up! The season ran a bit longer than expected due to weather delays and rainouts, but were able to finish strong thanks to the dedication and teamwork of our Athletics and Parks staff.

Fall Adult Volleyball kicks off on October 2nd, with an impressive 57 teams registered! This season includes four Coed divisions and two Women's divisions. Registration for **Adult Winter Basketball** is now open on Webtrac. Games will start at the beginning of December.



Arbor Day Recap Reaches the Community

The Marketing team posted a short recap reel of the Arbor Day tree planting event that received 6,600 views, 148 reactions, and several positive comments from members of the Flagstaff community on Facebook and Instagram. The team is excited to continue capturing and sharing moments like these to better connect with our target audience of local residents and highlight the great work happening across PROSE.



Jr. SUNS YOUTH BASKETBALL CLINIC

Friday,
October 17th

6:00 PM - 8:00 PM
Check-in at 5:30 PM

Hal Jensen Recreation Center

Registration is FREE

Sign up online through Webtrac
For grades 2nd through 8th

928-213-2760



CLICK HERE TO
REGISTER ONLINE



Jr. Suns Youth Basketball Clinic - Take your basketball skills to the next level with this FREE clinic with coaches from the Jr. Suns!
Friday, October 17th | 6:00 - 8:00 PM | Hal Jensen Recreation Center



Flagstaff Aquaplex

PUMPKIN PLUNGE

**Saturday
October, 25th**
3:00 PM - 7:00 PM
Flagstaff Aquaplex

Flagstaff Aquaplex Pumpkin Plunge - Swim and splash while picking out your own floating pumpkin! A Costume Contest will be held at 5:00 PM with prizes for the most creative looks!

Saturday, October 25th | 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM | Flagstaff Aquaplex | \$10 General Admission / \$5.00 in Costume

Fright Night at Hal Jensen - Grab your blanket and pillow and join us in watching The Nightmare Before Christmas, serving up pizza, ice cream floats, and of course... tons of candy! **Friday, October 24th | 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM | Hal Jensen Recreation Center | FREE**



Spooky Skate at Jay Lively - Get your costumes ready and join us for a fun Halloween themed night on the ice! **Friday, October 24th | 5:30 PM - 8:00 PM | Jay Lively Activity Center | Wear a costume & skate for FREE**

Hal Jensen Recreation Center

FRIGHT NIGHT

Disney
TIM BURTON'S
THE NIGHTMARE
BEFORE CHRISTMAS

Come enjoy pizza, ice cream floats, candy and a Halloween movie!

**Friday, October 24th
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM**
Hal Jensen Recreation Center

FREE

Jay Lively Activity Center

SPOOKY SKATE

**Friday, October 24th
5:30pm - 8:00pm**
Jay Lively Activity Center

CITY OF FLAGSTAFF PROSE

**FOLLOW US ON
SOCIAL MEDIA TO
SEE MORE PHOTOS,
REELS AND EVENTS!**

