



PARKS, RECREATION, OPEN SPACE, AND EVENTS

NOVEMBER 2025
NEWSLETTER

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



Bushmaster Sport Court Ribbon cutting



Pickleball on the new courts

Bushmaster Park Improvements

We are thrilled to announce the completion of the Sport Courts at Bushmaster Park project and hosted a ribbon cutting event with elected officials present, community groups and partners who will be using the courts frequently and invited students from Thomas Elementary School to be the first to play on the courts. The project included the construction of two tennis courts, two basketball courts, and eight pickleball courts all equipped with LED lighting funded by the Bed, Board and Beverage (BBB) Special Revenue fund.

Special thank you to Thomas Elementary, Flagstaff Tennis Association, and the Flagstaff Pickleball Association for coming out to the grand opening celebration.



Students from Thomas playing various sports on the new courts



PARKS



New sign at Hal Jensen

Buffalo Park & Hal Jensen Receive New Signage

Parks staff recently installed two new metal signs—one at Buffalo Park and one at Hal Jensen. The updated sign at Hal Jensen now reads “Hal Jensen Park and Recreation Center” acknowledging the neighborhood park that is outside of the recreation center. These signs match the style used at other parks and recreation centers and are part of an ongoing effort to create a consistent look across all facilities.

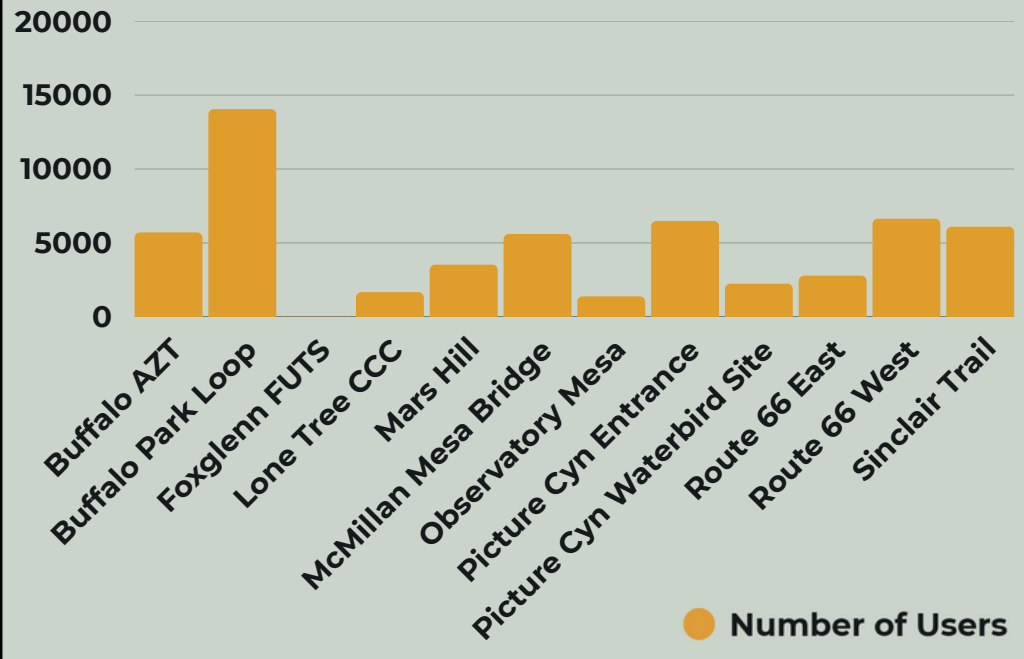
Winterization in Parks

Parks staff have been busy preparing for the winter season by taking steps to protect park infrastructure from cold temperatures and snow. This process includes, removing shade canopies, wind screens, and shutting down irrigation systems and drinking fountains to prevent freezing. These steps help keep our parks safe and protected during the colder months.



Removing playground shade canopy

October 2025 Trail Counts



Spectacular sunset at the Aquaplex

THE FLAGSTAFF AQUAPLEX



RECREATION



Skills & Drills event

Skills & Drills - Youth Basketball Draft Day with NAU Basketball

On November 22nd, the Youth Basketball Skills, Drills & Draft Day, was hosted at the Aquaplex. About 120 young athletes participated in the event which was led by the NAU Men's Basketball Team, who guided participants through a variety of skill-building drills and shared expert coaching tips. This annual event is a key part of the youth basketball program, where coaches evaluate players based on age and ability to form balanced teams for the

upcoming season. It's not only a fun and energetic day for the kids, but also a great opportunity to build confidence, teamwork, and a love for the game.

Hal Jensen Staff and Youth Volunteer at Flagstaff Family Food Center



Group that volunteered

On November 24th, staff from Hal Jensen Recreation Center, along with several youth volunteers, gave their time to support the Flagstaff Family Food Center. From 11:30 AM to 2:00 PM, they

helped manage traffic flow and handed out food to families in need. Their efforts made a meaningful impact and reflect the center's ongoing commitment to community service and youth engagement.



Johnny dressing the part

OPEN SPACE

New Environmental Literacy Corps Member

Open Space welcomed the new Environmental Literacy Corps member, Grace Harris to the team. Grace is pursuing advanced degree at NAU in Forestry. She is excited to focus on environmental education and community outreach.



Grace Harris

Volunteer Work in Open Space

Open Space hosted several volunteer groups this month including staff from Amazon and Arc'teryx. Amazon volunteers helped plant trees and replace damaged watering stakes at McMillan Mesa Natural Area. Arc'teryx employees from Canada and beyond joined Open Space staff to improve stormwater drainage on the Tom Moody Trail at Picture Canyon.



Volunteer planting a willow

Youth Environmental Education Highlights

Ashlee Fliney led a 5 Senses and Leave No Trace activity at Leupp Elementary's STEAM Fair. At Mount Elden Middle School, 6th graders presented water cycle posters during a classroom Q&A. Summit High students observed nature through their windows, creating art with watercolors and pastels. Despite the cold, students stayed engaged with hands-on environmental learning.



Students at the Leupp STEAM fair



Amazon volunteers with a tree they planted



EVENTS, MARKETING & ATHLETICS

WINTER WONDERLAND & TREE LIGHTING

DECEMBER 6TH

2:30pm-7:00pm
Heritage Square

- * Games & Crafts
- * Live music
- * Photobooth
- * Hot Cocoa
- * Santa

FREE!



Winter Wonderland & Tree Lighting

The Events & Marketing team has been hard at work preparing for the annual Winter Wonderland & Tree Lighting event. PROSE, Discover Flagstaff, and the Downtown Business Alliance are excited to host our annual Winter Wonderland & Holiday Tree Lighting on Saturday, December 6 in Heritage Square. Activities begin at 2:30pm with crafts, games, bounce houses, community partners and more! Santa will travel down Aspen Ave to light the tree at 6:15.

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Santa on the firetruck