



PARKS, RECREATION, OPEN SPACE, AND EVENTS

OCTOBER 2025
NEWSLETTER

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

Fall colors at Thorpe Park



Welcome New Parks Full Time Staff!

Parks is thrilled to welcome two new full-time Maintenance Workers: Michael Sloan and Anthony Masayesva—bringing the team to full staffing for the first time in a while!

Michael comes to Parks from an ecology lab at

Northern Arizona University and has called Flagstaff home for 13 years. His favorite park is Old Town Spring Park for its quiet charm and unique proximity to the train. On weekends, he enjoys walking his dog, gardening, and spending time with his wife.

Anthony brings experience from the Kaibab National Forest. He enjoys playing kickball and ultimate frisbee at his favorite park, the Thorpe Softball Complex. A passionate runner, Anthony often spends his free time on long forest runs.



Michael Sloan



Anthony Masayesva



Fall colors at Thorpe Park

PARKS

Staff Trailer Training

Parks staff recently completed a hands-on trailer safety training. Team members practiced backing up and parallel parking with a truck and trailer, and answered key safety questions. We're proud to report that all staff successfully passed the training—great job, team!



Trailer training



Tree felling training

Tree Felling Training

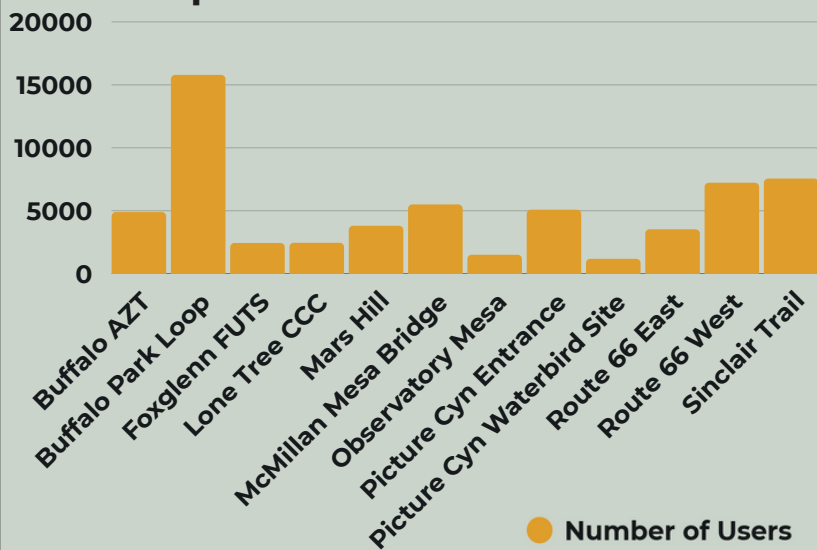
Parks staff recently took part in a tree felling training led by Anthony, who brought valuable expertise from his time with the Forest Service. The session covered essential safety guidelines, best practices, and included a live demonstration. To illustrate proper technique, Anthony felled a diseased tree at Buffalo Park that posed a potential hazard. He expertly guided the tree to fall

precisely between two flags he had set—an impressive demonstration of both precision and experience!



Anthony with the tree he felled

September 2025 Trail Counts





Kids in costume at Spooky Skate

RECREATION

Spooky Skate at Jay Lively Activity Center

Spooky Skate at Jay Lively Activity Center was a hit, with an estimated 200 attendees. A highlight of the night was the costume contest, where the crowd enthusiastically cheered for their favorites and helped select the winners. Our staff did an outstanding job engaging with attendees and keeping the energy high all night long.



Shaggy & Velma



Spongebob on skates

Scarecrow & hockey player

Fright Night at Hal Jensen Recreation Center

Fright Night was a success, with about 100 attendees throughout the evening. Community members enjoyed pizza, popcorn, sweets, and a movie in a festive setting. It was great to see the creativity and effort that went into so many fun and elaborate costumes.



Fright Night movie



Kid in scary costume at Fright Night

The Pumpkin Plunge at the Aquaplex

Approximately 100 people attended the Pumpkin Plunge, where families enjoyed swimming among pumpkins in the pool. Participants picked out their favorite pumpkin to take home, created crafts, entered a costume contest raffle, and captured memories at the photo booth.



A family in costume at the Pumpkin Plunge



Pumpkins in the pool

Students on a field trip at the Picture Canyon



OPEN SPACE

Bluebird Habitat Project Thrives at Picture Canyon

For the past four years, Northern Arizona Audubon Society volunteers and Open Space have supported native bluebird populations by installing and monitoring nest boxes at Picture Canyon. These boxes provide vital nesting sites for species like Western and Mountain Bluebirds. Since 2021, 44 Western Bluebirds, 10 Violet-green Swallows, and 27 Ash-throated Flycatchers have successfully fledged. Data is shared through NestWatch to aid global conservation efforts. Thanks to dedicated volunteers, the project continues to grow.



Birdhouse at Picture Canyon



Baby birds inside birdhouse

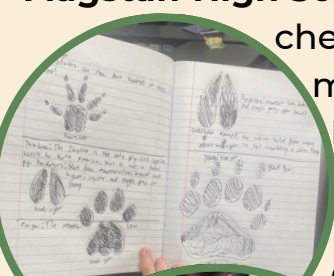
Outdoor Education Highlights

Mount Elden Middle School – 7th Grade Field Trips - Around 180 students visited Picture Canyon for hands-on learning about water quality. Activities included a hike to the Waterfall Overlook to discuss water restoration and cultural water use, water velocity and chemical testing, and a tour of the Wildcat Hill Wastewater Treatment Plant. Special thanks to the Wildcat Hill team and Sarah Jablon from Water Services!

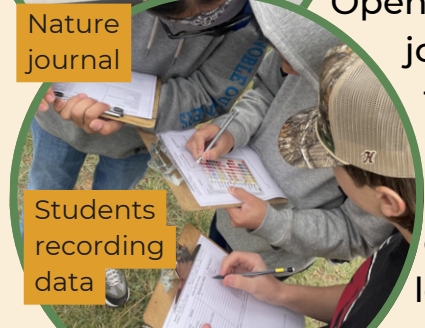
Flagstaff High School – Honors Biology Fifty students explored water health through chemical testing and a tour of the Wildcat Hill facility, followed by a two-mile interpretive hike through Picture Canyon. Big shoutout to Wildcat Hill for their continued support!

Mount Elden Middle School – 6th Grade Classroom Outreach

In partnership with Willow Bend, Open Space brought field journaling into the classroom for 100 students. Using animal tracks, scat replicas, and field guides, students created journal entries on local wildlife.



Nature journal



Students recording data



Students at the water treatment plant

EVENTS, MARKETING & ATHLETICS

Adult Basketball



Adult Basketball Registration Open

Spots are still available for the Adult Basketball League held on Tuesdays and Thursdays at Sinagua High School. Don't miss your chance to get in the game—register now and join the fun!

Registration: \$325/ Team

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)



WINTER WONDERLAND & TREE LIGHTING

DECEMBER 6TH

2:30pm-7:00pm
Heritage Square

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

FREE!



Winter Wonderland - December 6th

Join us on Saturday, December 6th for Winter Wonderland and the annual Tree Lighting, 2:30pm-7pm! This event is FREE, Family-Friendly, and so much fun!

Stay tuned for more updates on bands and activities!



Winter Wonderland



Social Media Performance Overview

Over the last 30 days, the Marketing team reached 69,493 people on social media, with 86.5% of that reach coming from organic content. Engagement included 406 reactions, 63 comments, and 82 shares. Notably, 73.6% of the audience were Flagstaff residents. This growth reflects the success of incorporating more creative reels, photos, and behind-the-scenes content that highlights programs, events, and daily operations in a way that resonates with the local community.

Hal Jensen Recreation Center
YOUTH JR SUNS
BASKETBALL





Registration \$45
 Register By: January 1st

SKILLS & DRILLS / DRAFT DAY
 with NAU Basketball
 at the Flagstaff Aquaplex
Nov. 22nd

CLICK TO REGISTER



Youth Jr. Suns Basketball Registration NOW OPEN! - Get ready for a great season of youth basketball! **Skills & Drills/Draft Day | Saturday, November 22 | Flagstaff Aquaplex**

NAU Basketball is teaming up with the Flagstaff Aquaplex to host a Skills & Drills and Draft Day event. This is a great opportunity for young athletes to develop their basketball fundamentals and prepare for the upcoming season.

- Session Times:**
- 2nd/3rd Grade: 9:00–10:00 AM
 - 4th/5th Grade: 10:15–11:15 AM
 - Middle School: 11:30 AM–12:30 PM

League Registration Deadline: January 1st

CLICK HERE TO REGISTER

City of Flagstaff Open Space

FULL MOON HIKE




November Full Moon Hike with Open Space - Join Open Space for a night hike and full moon rise on Observatory Mesa.
Wednesday, November 5th | 5:00 PM | Observatory Mesa Tunnel Springs Trail (Meet at Railroad Springs Blvd & Adirondack Ave)

CLICK HERE TO REGISTER



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