



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

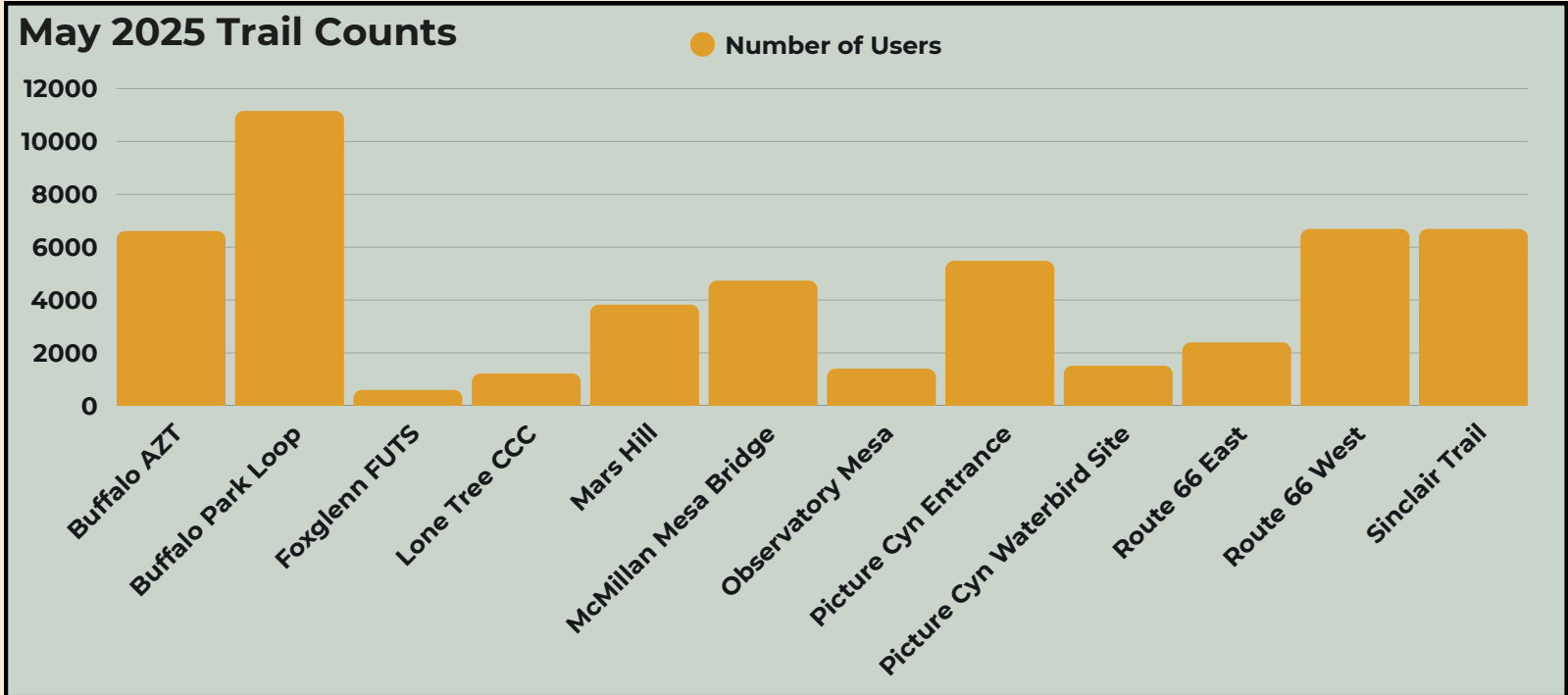
PARKS

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

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.

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Group that attended Arizona Wranglers game



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 4th 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.



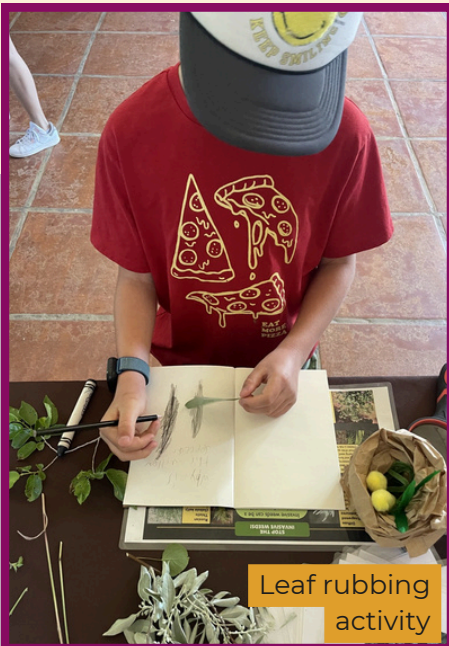
Campsite clean-up



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 1st - 31st

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

Celebrate Parks & Recreation Month with us!

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 16th
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 THE HOME DEPOT BUILD TOGETHER PLAY TOGETHER

BUILD TOGETHER PLAY TOGETHER

A PARKS & RECREATION MONTH EVENT

SATURDAY, JULY 26TH
8:00 AM - 12:00 PM

HAL JENSEN RECREATION CENTER

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