



PARKS, RECREATION, OPEN SPACE, AND EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 2025
NEWSLETTER

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



Ms. Kraus's 4th grade class

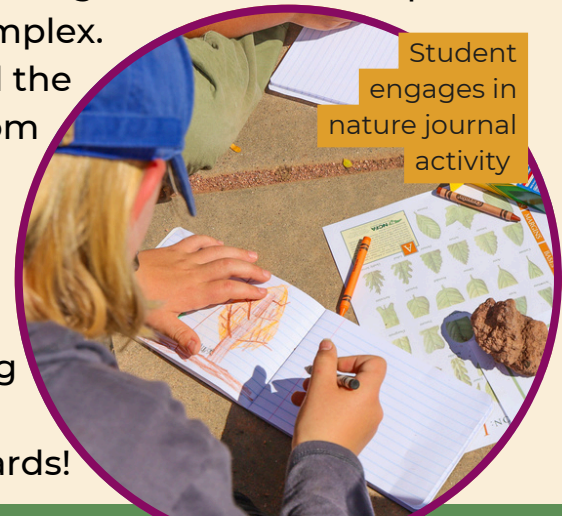


Students with shovels of dirt for the tree

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

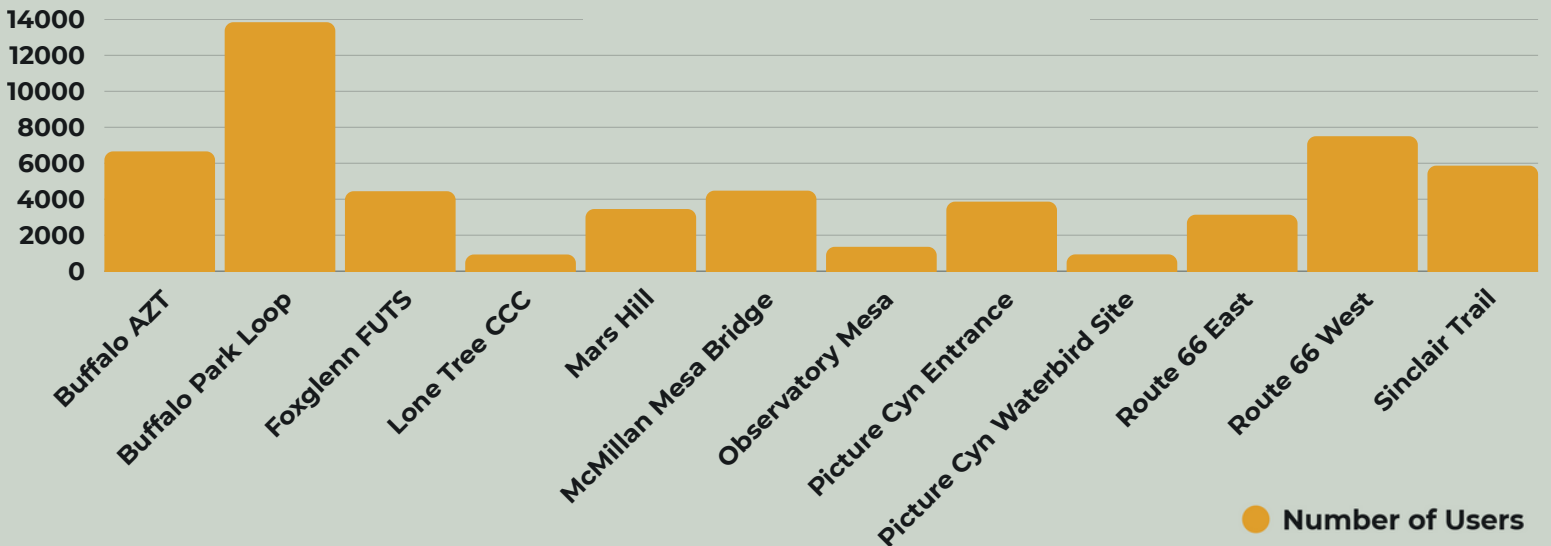
Staff Attend Arizona Parks and Recreation Association Conference

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



The PROSE kick-ball team at the City employee BBQ



RECREATION



Smith machine

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.



T-bar row machine



Hip thrust machine

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

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!



Women's Volleyball

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



Volunteers with bags of invasive weeds

OPEN SPACE

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.



Volunteers pulling Cheat Grass

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



Volunteers pulling weeds

oaks, listening to birds in the Ponderosa pines, and discovering beetles on wildflowers.

Grandparent Walk at Observatory Mesa



Child using binoculars

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.



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.



Girl waters newly planted tree

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



Youth Basketball

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**

Hal Jensen Recreation Center

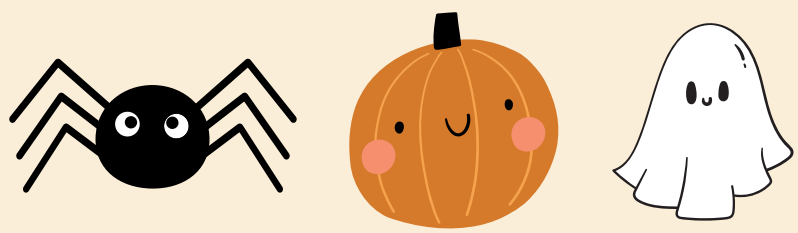
FRIGHT NIGHT




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

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**

Jay Lively Activity Center

SPOOKY SKATE



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



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