



PARKS, RECREATION, OPEN SPACE, AND EVENTS

MARCH 2026
NEWSLETTER

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



Youth Summit



Teen Summit at Hal Jensen Recreation Center

Hal Jensen Recreation Center proudly hosted its inaugural Teen Summit—a day designed to inspire teens to connect, reflect, and grow in a positive, supportive environment. The summit featured engaging workshops including mindfulness yoga, guided journaling, and motivational sessions led by special guest speakers.

The event kicked off strong with eighteen teens in attendance. While participation tapered as the day went

on, the experience provided valuable lessons that will help us strengthen engagement and elevate next year's summit. We are excited to build on this foundation and continue creating meaningful opportunities for Flagstaff teens. We extend a heartfelt thank-you to our incredible community partners: Native Americans for Community Action, Northern Arizona University, CAVIAT, Coconino County, Tynkertopia, and the Coconino Coalition for Children & Youth.



Mental health affirmation stickers

PARKS



New park sign

New Park Welcome Signs

Parks has been collaborating with the Economic Vitality team to develop new, uniform signage for all city parks. The updated signs will improve accessibility by incorporating QR codes and universal symbols, making park rules clearer and easier for all visitors to understand.



New parking surface

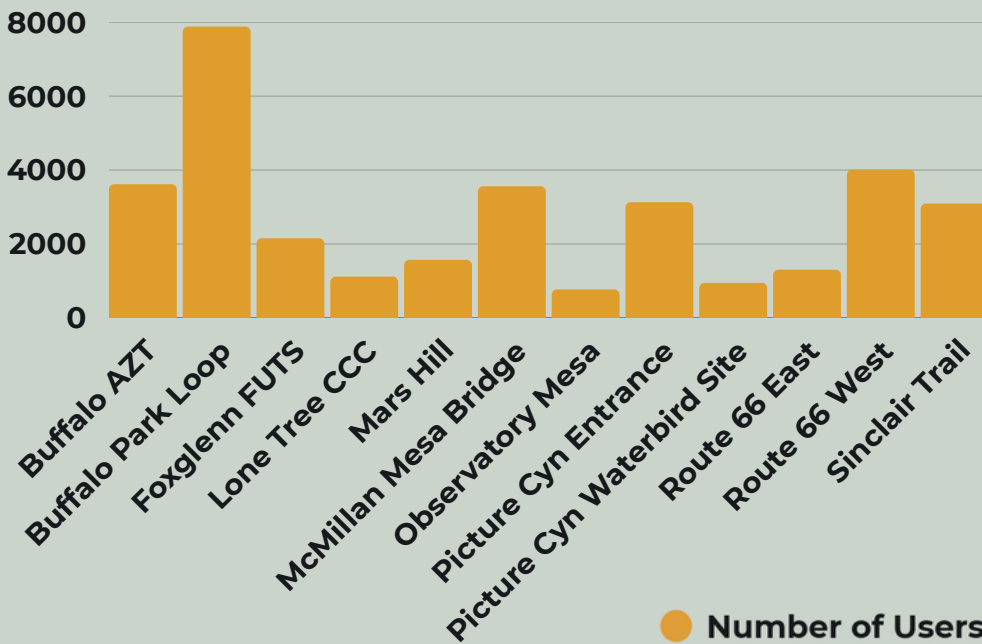
Milling Project at Thorpe Park Little League Fields

The Parks team recently completed a milling placement project at the Little League parking lot. This effort was made possible by securing and stockpiling approximately 600 cubic yards of millings from last fall's FUTS Asphalt Repair and Rehabilitation project. A contractor applied the millings to the dirt lot to reduce dust and discourage unsafe vehicle behavior. This improvement has been a long-standing need, and the Parks team extends appreciation to the FUTS repair crew for their cooperation and support in making it happen.



Field work

February 2026 Trail Counts



● Number of Users

Ballfield Preparation

The Parks team has been busy preparing all city athletic fields for the April 1st season kickoff. Seasonal maintenance included activating irrigation systems, realigning base pegs, completing clay work around field areas, laser-leveling infields, and managing transitions between grass and infield surfaces. Their efforts ensure user groups receive safe, well-manicured fields for spring play.



Foosball

RECREATION

Aquaplex Spring Break Camp

The Aquaplex Spring Break Camp welcomed eighteen youth for a week of fun—from pool games to hands-on STEAM and arts and crafts activities. With a new structure led by our Recreation Coordinator, Taylor Todd, the camp ran smoothly and offered a great preview of what is ahead for Summer Camps.



Ice skating



Rock climbing

Hal Jensen Recreation Spring Break Activities

Spring Break activities at Hal Jensen Recreation Center were a hit, drawing strong participation throughout the week. Youth enjoyed daily games like whiffleball, dodgeball, kickball, and basketball, along with arts and crafts, a cooking class, and a movie in the gym. Highlights also included field trips to Jay Lively for ice skating, PuttTek for mini golf, and Starlite Lanes for bowling.



Dirty hands from a STEAM project



Bowling



Mini-Golf



OPEN SPACE

Archeology and Heritage Awareness Hike at Picture Canyon

Open Space hosted a guided Archeology hike at Picture Canyon, in celebration of Arizona Archaeology and Cultural Awareness Month. Volunteer and retired Archaeologist Neil Weintraub did a wonderful job providing information about the archaeological significance of Picture Canyon, as well as more recent history. NAU intern George Wilson helped to wrangle the thirty participants.



Archeology Hike

Tree City USA Recognition

The City of Flagstaff has once again been approved by the AZ Department of Forestry & Fire Management to be a Tree City USA for 2026. Although Arbor Day nationally and in Phoenix is April 24th, that is not an ideal time to plant a tree in

Flagstaff. Flagstaff will recognize

Arbor Day on August 25th of each year and Open Space will plan an event to celebrate.



Tree City
— USA —



Tree City USA
Recognition

ARIZONA
DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY
& FIRE MANAGEMENT

CONGRATS!

YOUR 2025 TREE CITY USA
APPLICATION HAS BEEN APPROVED
BY AZ STATE FORESTRY



Field Trip at Picture Canyon

Science Saturday

Outdoor Education Highlights

Open Space has been busy leading and assisting with a range of programs and events in the community.

- Girl Scouts Hiking Series: Troops from across Arizona spent three days exploring Open Space sites, earning patches as they learned Leave No Trace, first aid, local archaeology, and survival skills at all three Open Spaces.
- Flagstaff High School Earth Science: Students joined Open Space staff for a guided hike at Picture Canyon to support their settlement-planning project, focusing on geology, environmental quality, and cultural history. One more trip is planned for April.
- Aquaplex Spring Day Camp: Open Space led a “Restoration Superheroes” activity where campers created seed balls and learned how they can help restore local habitats.
- Science Saturday at Willow Bend: Staff hosted an “Awesome Archaeology” booth highlighting Picture Canyon plants and how archaeologists use botanical clues to understand historic sites.



Flag High students at Picture Canyon

EVENTS, MARKETING & ATHLETICS

Call for Musicians and Food Trucks for the 4th of July

Events and Marketing is in planning mode for summer events including the 4th of July celebration. A call for musicians as well as food trucks is currently open until April 17th. Interested musicians and vendors will need to send an email to SpecialEvents@flagstaffaz.gov.

4TH OF JULY CALL FOR FOOD TRUCKS



To vend at our 4th of July
celebration

Please send a an email with
your interest and menu to:

SpecialEvents@flagstaffaz.gov

Deadline to Apply:
April 17th



4TH OF JULY CALL FOR MUSICIANS



FAMILY FRIENDLY

To play at our 4th of July
celebration

Send your demo to:

SpecialEvents@flagstaffaz.gov

Deadline to Submit:
April 17th



Hal Jensen Recreation Center Presents:

Daddy Daughter Ball



Tennis Shoes & Tiaras

Saturday, April 18th

5:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Hal Jensen Recreation Center

\$50/ couple + \$20/ each additional
Semi-formal attire recommended



CLICK TO REGISTER

Or register at Hal Jensen or the Aquaplex front desk

All ages and genders welcome

📞 928-213-2760

Upcoming Events & Programs



Daddy Daughter Ball

Saturday April 18th | 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM | Hal Jensen Recreation Center

Join us for this year's Daddy Daughter Ball, themed "Tennis Shoes and Tiaras". All ages and genders are welcome. Come enjoy an evening of dancing, professional photography, crafts, and a delicious dinner. Semi-formal attire is recommended.

Tickets at \$50/ couple + \$20 for each additional person. Register online, at Hal Jensen or the Aquaplex front desk.

Aquaplex Summer Camp

Select weeks throughout June & July | Monday - Friday | 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM | Ages 5-12

Summer is just around the corner and the Aquaplex is gearing up for some fun filled weeks packed with swimming, games, arts and crafts, and more!

Member Price: \$120

Non-Member Price: \$150

Register Online or at the Aquaplex front desk.

Flagstaff Aquaplex

SUMMER DAY CAMP



Ages: 5 - 12

Monday - Friday

8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

One-Week Sessions

June 1 - 5	July 13 - 17
June 8 - 12	July 20 - 24
June 15 - 19	July 27 - 31

CLICK HERE TO REGISTER



Member Price:
\$120

Non-Member Price:
\$150

📞 928-213-2300



CELEBRATE TRAILS DAY



Saturday, April 25th

Buffalo Park / McMillan Mesa

9:00 AM - Adaptive bike demos with High Country Adaptive Sports

10:00 AM - Group bike ride around the McMillan Mesa Loop Trail with PROSE

11:30 AM - Hike the Nate Avery Loop Trail & try adaptive exercise equipment

CLICK HERE FOR DETAILS



Celebrate Trails Day

Saturday, April 25th | 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM | Buffalo Park / McMillan Mesa

Join Open Space and High Country Adaptive Sports to celebrate National Trails Day! High Country Adaptive Sports will be doing bike demos followed by a group bike ride around the McMillan Mesa Loop Trail and then a walk around the Nate Avery Loop Trail to learn about and try out the adaptive exercise equipment. Come hang out, meet new trail buddies, and celebrate our beautiful trails in Flagstaff!



Glow Night at Hal Jensen Recreation Center

Friday, May 1st | 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (Ages 7-11) & 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM (Ages 12-17) | Hal Jensen Recreation Center

We will be turning off the lights and playing games that glow in the dark! Free pizza and drinks provided.

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA



Hal Jensen Recreation Center

GLOW NIGHT

We'll turn off the lights and brighten the gym with black lights, glow tape, glow paint, glow sticks, and glow wristbands—everything you need to light up the night!

FRIDAY, MAY 1ST

5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (Ages 7 - 11)

7:00 PM - 9:00 PM (Ages 12 - 17)

Dodgeball | Soccer | Whiffle Ball
Basketball and More!

Free pizza and drinks!

📞 928-213-2760

