



PARKS, RECREATION, OPEN SPACE, AND EVENTS

JULY 2026
NEWSLETTER

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



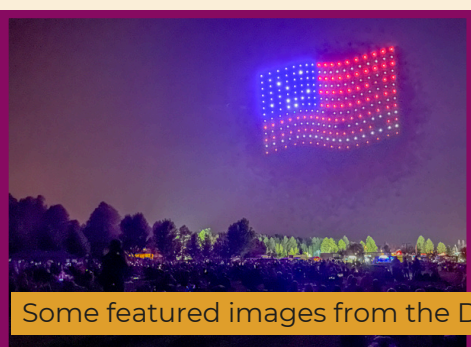
Drone Show attendees settling in
before the show

Fourth of July Drone Show

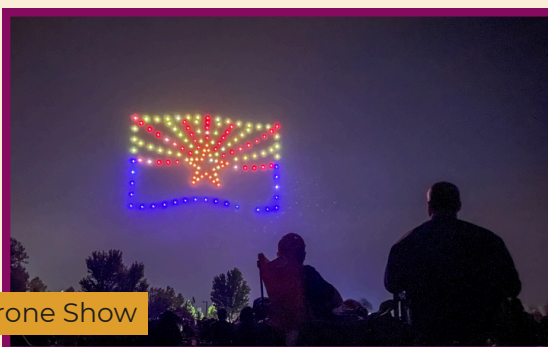
The 2026 Fourth of July Celebration & Drone Show was a phenomenal success. The event drew a crowd of approximately 28,000 people to Foxglenn Park for an evening of fun-filled activities, including bounce houses, yard games, face painting, balloon creations, and live music, culminating in a spectacular 23-minute drone show produced by OpenSky Productions. The show featured elements inspired by Flagstaff's local culture and celebrated the nation's 250th anniversary. Thanks to the collaborative efforts of Economic Vitality, the Flagstaff Police Department, Fire Department, and Emergency Management, this was an event we will not forget and are proud to have produced for both our local community and visitors to enjoy.



People dancing to the live band



Some featured images from the Drone Show





PARKS

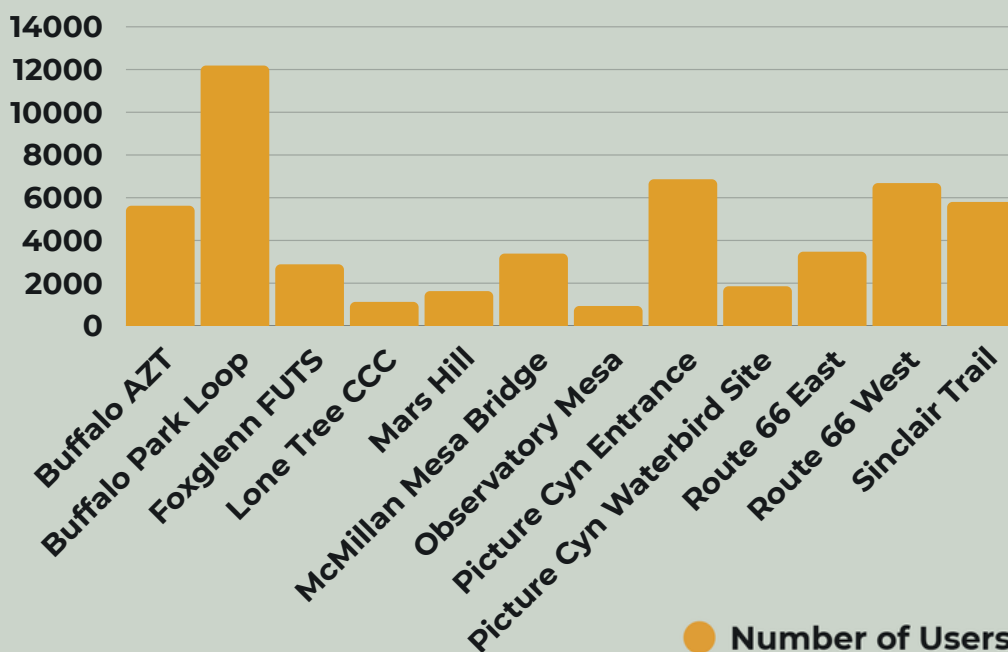
New Dumpster Enclosure

The Parks team has successfully completed a new dumpster bin enclosure at Thorpe Park, creating a consolidated and cleaner space for our trash operations. This updated setup replaces the old open location, improving overall efficiency for daily Parks workflows. The new dumpsters also feature locking lids, designed to help reduce public dumping and keep the area secure and well-maintained.



New dumpster enclosure

June 2026 Trail Counts



RECREATION

New Recreation Coordinator, Gwen Turney at Joe C. Montoya Community & Senior Center

We are excited to welcome Gwen Turney as the Recreation Coordinator at the Joe C. Montoya Community & Senior Center. Gwen recently earned her degree in Parks and Recreation from NAU and is already familiar with PROSE after working at the Aquaplex and Joe C. front desk for four years. She's eager to introduce new programs that community members have been asking for and has already begun revitalizing the Senior Stretch class.

Outside of work, Gwen enjoys spending time with friends and exploring the outdoors—one of her favorite things about living in Flagstaff. Be sure to stop by Joe C. to say hello or join her for a class!

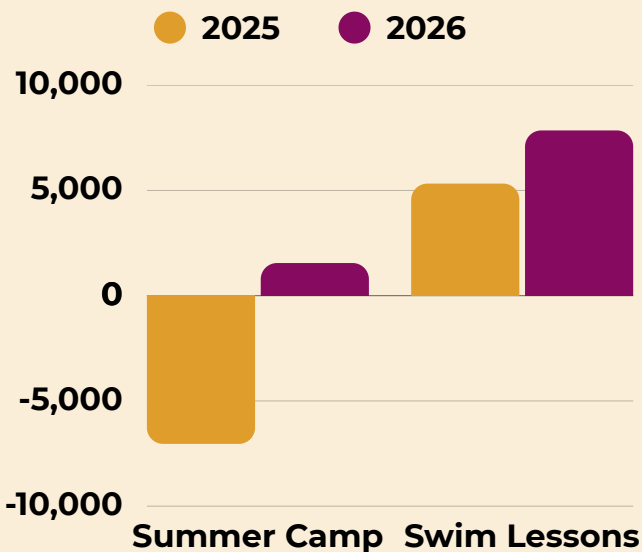


Gwen Turney



Swim Lessons at the Aquaplex

Aquaplex Youth Program Net Revenue 2025/2026 Comparison



Summer Youth Program Success at the Aquaplex

This summer, both Summer Camp and Swim Lessons saw major improvements in efficiency, quality, and financial performance. Summer Camp operated for six weeks instead of nine yet still served 86% of last year's participants, increased weekly enrollment and revenue, reduced staffing costs, and finished with a positive net revenue of \$1,550.47—an improvement of nearly \$8,600 over 2025. Swim Lessons shifted to longer one-hour sessions, greatly enhancing instructional value while increasing

revenue and net revenue despite lower enrollment. Together, these results highlight the strong momentum of our youth programming and reflect the dedication and professionalism of our Aquaplex team.

Kids on the rock wall at the Aquaplex Summer Camp





Touch-A-Truck event

Touch-A-Truck Event

Once again, Hal Jensen Recreation Center hosted a successful Touch-A-Truck event, drawing hundreds of families eager to explore and learn about a wide variety of trucks and machinery. The event continues to grow in popularity each year and remains a favorite for visitors of all ages.



Kid using a remote to "tow" a play-car

Mountain Mash-Up at Jay Lively

Jay Lively hosted the 5th Annual Mountain Mash-Up adult draft tournament. Players received custom mythical-creature jerseys—the theme this year included Leprechauns, Yetis, Unicorns, and Jackalopes—and each participant played four games throughout the weekend. The tournament drew players from across Arizona, with many newcomers praising the experience and the unique jerseys. After a competitive weekend of evenly matched teams, the Leprechauns claimed this year's championship.



Recreation Manager, Tyrone & his grandson at Touch-A-Truck

The Power of Play – Parks & Recreation Month Event

Recreation staff from all four centers teamed to host a Parks and Recreation Month event celebrating this year's theme, the Power of Play. Families enjoyed a wide variety of activities, including yard games, arts and crafts, scooter races, a bouncy obstacle course, and visits from Police and Fire teams. An engaging scavenger hunt added to the fun with chances to win prizes. The event was well-received and offered a free, active, and enjoyable afternoon for families.



Prize wheel



Kids playing Gaga Ball



Scooter races

OPEN SPACE

Stewardship and Volunteer Work

Volunteers kicked off trail-stabilization work on the downhill trails at McMillan Mesa, building water bars and berms to help redirect stormwater

Rainbow on the Arizona Trail

and prevent erosion. Visiting volunteers from Texas helped clean up trash along El Paso Flagstaff Road—the route to Picture Canyon—followed by a guided hike to view the petroglyphs. At Picture Canyon, more than 20 volunteers helped

Kids from Hal Jensen looking through binoculars

pull invasive weeds, tackling knapweed behind kinder morgan and scotch thistle both in the canyon and along the Rio de Flag near Rain Valley.



Volunteers from Wednesday Weed-Pulls

Outdoor Education at Summer Youth Programs

Open Space partnered with Aquaplex Day Camp for two outreach programs. The first program involved an archaeology activity where campers practiced searching for artifacts and recording their observations. The

second visit focused on outer space, giving kids the chance to create outer space-themed watercolor postcards or design their own planets using different art materials. The Open Space team guided kids from Hal Jensen on a hike along the Sinclair Wash Trail to the Rio de Flag wetlands. Using binoculars, field guides, magnifying glasses, and insect nets, the kids explored local plants and wildlife—highlighted by an exciting moment when they watched an osprey catch a fish in the wetlands.



Volunteers building berms

Archaeology activity





EVENTS, MARKETING & ATHLETICS

Concerts in the Park Series Concludes

The Concerts in the Park Series wrapped up at Jim Cullen Memorial Park after a vibrant season featuring artists ranging from blues and funk to alternative covers from the '90s and 2000s.

Despite a few necessary location changes and one cancellation due to wildfire smoke, the series successfully hosted eight of the nine scheduled performances. Thanks to our staff and partners' ability to remain flexible, think quickly, and prioritize safety—adapting plans, relocating when needed, and ensuring each show could continue smoothly.



People of all ages dancing to the music

Summer Athletic Programs Running Strong

Second-session softball is in full swing after the first session was extended due to smoke from the Sedona wildfires and monsoon weather, ultimately wrapping up by mid-June. Thanks to our athletic staff and their adaptability in rescheduling games, the season has stayed on track.

Registration for the 2026 fall volleyball season is now open, offering seven divisions across six days (Sunday through Friday).

Grass volleyball has about three weeks remaining in the season. We have also welcomed two new athletic officials and are in the process of hiring additional scorekeepers to support our growing programs.

Full moon rising during softball games at Thorpe

