



PARKS, RECREATION, OPEN SPACE, AND EVENTS

JUNE 2026
NEWSLETTER

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



New playground at McMaillan Mesa Park

New Playground at McMillan Mesa Park

The new playground at McMillan Mesa Park is officially open! After the previous play structure reached the end of its lifespan, Parks staff worked hard to install a new, community-inspired replacement. The design was shaped by input from nearby residents, resulting in a space that offers fun for children of all ages. The updated playground features a dramatic 16-foot slide with an internal climbing route, interactive play elements including a Connect Four-style game and a play tool station, a dedicated and accessible play area for younger children, and a new swing set. The bright orange and green play equipment coincidentally complements the red hot poker plants blooming near the park entrance, creating a vibrant, welcoming space for families to enjoy.



Kids & families enjoying the new playground at Concerts in the Park

PARKS



Red hot poker plants at McMillan Mesa Park



Ian Andersen

Ian Andersen Promotion to Cemetery Supervisor

We are excited to announce that Ian Andersen has accepted the position of Cemetery Supervisor. Ian brings eight years of experience with the Parks Section, where he began as a temporary employee before joining the Cemetery as a full-time staff member. He later served as a Parks Technician and now returns to the Cemetery to oversee daily operations. In his new role, Ian is committed to providing exceptional customer service with compassion, professionalism, and respect. He understands the importance of honoring veterans and recognizes the need for sensitive, thoughtful care while supporting families during difficult times. Ian is also excited to apply his knowledge of tree care and landscaping to enhance the beauty and upkeep of the Cemetery. In addition, he looks forward to streamlining operations and implementing small but meaningful improvements that help maintain both affordability and comfort for the families and community members we serve. We are fortunate to have Ian's dedication, experience, and

genuine care on our team. Please join us in congratulating him on his new role—we look forward to seeing the positive impact he will continue to make as Cemetery Supervisor.

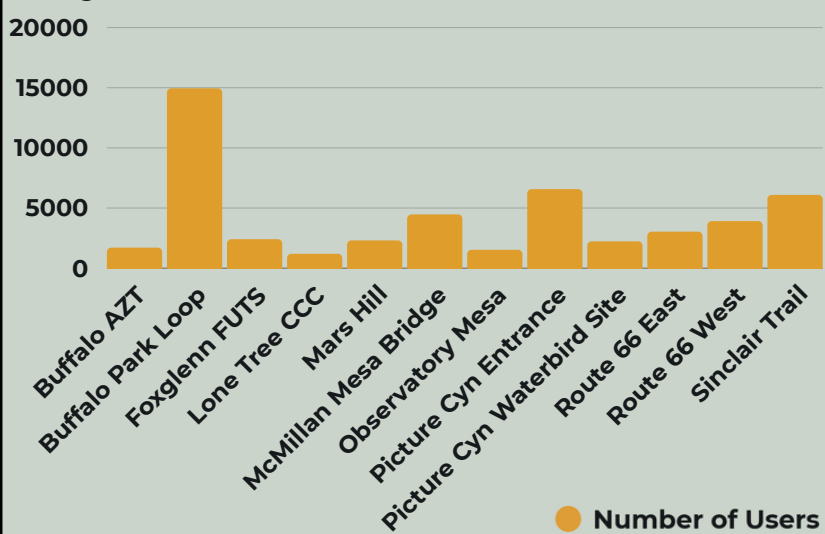
New Columbarium at the Cemetery

The Cemetery recently finished installing a new columbarium, expanding the memorial options available to our community.



New Columbarium

May 2026 Trail Counts



RECREATION



Swim Lessons the Aquaplex

Swim Lessons & Summer Camp at the Aquaplex

Swim Lessons and Summer Camp at the Aquaplex are off to a fantastic start! Summer

Camp welcomed an average of 30 campers each week during its first three weeks. Campers have enjoyed hands-on STEM activities, swimming, rock climbing, games, and plenty of summer fun. Swim lessons have also seen strong participation. This year, lessons were restructured into hour-long sessions grouped by skill level rather than age, and the new format has proven to be a great success.

Summer Sports Camp

Summer Sports Camp had another successful season thanks to the collaborative efforts of the Hal Jensen and Jay Lively staff. Campers learned a variety of sports, including European handball, floor hockey, ice skating, and more. Throughout the camp, participants built their skills and confidence, culminating in a fun, friendly competition that showcased their progress.

Sports Camp participants playing handball



Summer Field Trips at Hal Jensen

Summer Field Trips at Hal Jensen have been well attended and have offered a great variety of fun activities around the area. One of the highlights was a trip to Prescott to watch the Northern Arizona Wranglers play, giving kids the exciting experience of seeing a live game. Another favorite outing was a visit to PuttTek for a round of mini golf.

Field Trip to the Northern Arizona Wranglers game



PuttTek





OPEN SPACE

Field Notes: Edible Plants & Drawing

Open Space was joined by local artist Christine Snyder for an Edible Plants & Drawing hike at Picture Canyon Natural and Cultural Preserve. After an introduction to nature journaling the group set off along the trail to learn about several native plants and their traditional, medicinal, and ecological uses. At the Waterfall Overlook, Christine introduced the basics of watercolor painting, and participants used their nature journals to paint plants they observed during the hike.

Invasive Weed Mitigation & Education

Open Space, Parks, and Sustainability hosted a Native Plant Workshop, with a tour of the native plant garden at the downtown library and planting native plants at the Pollinator Garden at City Hall. Open Space taught an Invasive Plant Workshop at Foxglenn Park. After learning about invasive plants, participants went back along the Rio de Flag to identify and remove various invasive plants.

Bug Out Event

Open Space, along with various partners, hosted a successful Bug Out event with interactive booths where participants learned about native insects, matched pollinators to plants, created bee watering stations, and planted native wildflowers to support local pollinators.

Bug Out Event



Native wildflowers at the Library



EVENTS, MARKETING & ATHLETICS

Despite a few location changes this season due to unforeseen circumstances, Concerts in the Park has continued to be a wonderful success. We were thrilled to see such a fantastic turnout for our concerts at Raymond County Park and McMillan Mesa Park, presented in partnership with Coconino County Parks and Recreation. Even with the venue changes, the community came together to enjoy an evening of great music. We are excited to keep the momentum going as the series continues throughout the rest of July.

CITY OF FLAGSTAFF
CONCERTS
IN THE PARK
2026

6.3	The Flag 5 Jim Cullen Memorial Park	7.1	Holly Kirsten Cheshire Park
6.10	The Stellar Jays Peaks View County Park	7.8	The High Standards Smokerise Park
6.17	Optimal Delusion Murdoch Park	7.15	The Pocket Limes Mobile Haven Park
6.24	Big Daddy D and the Dynamites Raymond County Park	7.22	Ryan Biter Bushmaster Park
		7.29	The Coveralls Jim Cullen Memorial Park

Every Wednesday in June & July
5:30 pm - 7:30 pm



Upcoming Concerts in the Park

July 15th – The Pocket Limes at Mobile Haven Park

July 22nd – Ryan Biter at Bushmaster Park

July 29th – The Coveralls at Jim Cullen Memorial Park