WELCOME TO
Picture Canyon Natural and Cultural Preserve

HOW TO GET THERE
From downtown Flagstaff, travel east on Route 66 for 4 miles. Turn right at the Auto Park sign to remain on Historic Route 66. Turn left on El Paso Flagstaff Road and a parking area is located approximately 1 mile down the road.

RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES
TOM MOODY TRAIL – 2.8 mile loop trail with canyon vistas, extensive petroglyph panels, and interpretive areas.

DON WEAVER TRAIL – 0.7 mile educational trail that travels through a portion of the canyon, with canyon vistas and cultural resources.

ARIZONA TRAIL – 1.5 mile segment of the 800+ mile trail that stretches from Mexico to Utah traverses through the Preserve. Access the Arizona Trail via the Tom Moody Trail from the Outdoor Classroom.

For more information about Flagstaff natural areas:
www.flagstaff.az.gov/OpenSpace  •  928-213-2154
www.flagstaff.az.gov/PictureCanyon

Stay up-to-date with the latest Picture Canyon news by following our Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/FlagstaffOpenSpace/
PLANTS
Combinations of soil, sunlight, and water interact at Picture Canyon to create a unique set of vegetation communities—meadows of grasses and wildflowers, wetlands with cattails and willows, canyon walls lined with grapevines and yuccas—all within this portion of the largest ponderosa pine forest in the world.

WILDLIFE
Many different species utilize portions of the Preserve as habitat, including owls, elk, bats, turkeys, bald eagles, and more!

Picture Canyon is a designated Watchable Wildlife Site with the Arizona Watchable Wildlife Experience. Hide behind the blind near the pond to increase your chances of seeing flycatchers, vireos, warblers, marsh birds, and waterfowl in the pond and along the stream. A variety of habitats are present within the Preserve, ranging from open water to canyon habitats, making the entire Preserve attractive to wildlife.

The Rio de Flag supports over 130 bird species within the Preserve, making Picture Canyon one of the premiere bird watching sites in the region.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPORTANCE
The Northern Sinagua people occupied the area from 700-1300 AD and Picture Canyon is home to the greatest concentration of Northern Sinagua petroglyphs in the region. These people marked their presence with over 126 panels depicting archers, turtles, large mammals, birds, and geometric designs.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT
Community members advocated for the protection of Picture Canyon for decades. The area was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2008 and the City of Flagstaff purchased these 478 acres in 2012 to set aside for permanent preservation.

“The acquisition of Picture Canyon is an excellent example of how our community, using voter approved resources, can protect a special place in perpetuity.”

- Mandy Metzger
Coconino County Board of Supervisors

HISTORICAL RESOURCES
The Greenlaw Lumber Company installed a rail line at Picture Canyon to harvest timber in 1908 and 1909 using cross cut saws. The railroad beds are still visible in some places of the Preserve and there is also a historic railroad trestle on the property.

RULES AND REGULATIONS
Day Use Only. Picture Canyon is closed to camping, campfires, fuel wood collection, and overnight uses.

Respect Wildlife. Picture Canyon provides ample opportunity to observe wildlife, but please do so from a distance to ensure your safety. Hunting is strictly prohibited within the Preserve.

Equestrian Use. Horses are permitted within Picture Canyon but to protect the trails, please do not ride your horse during wet conditions.

Leave No Trace. Dispose of your waste properly by taking it home with you.

Respect Cultural Resources. Picture Canyon is a very important cultural site in northern Arizona. Please help us protect these fragile resources by not touching petroglyphs or taking anything home with you.

Keep Pets on a Leash. Be mindful of other visitors by keeping your pet on a leash. Please pick up after your pet.