Thank you for visiting Picture Canyon Natural and Cultural Preserve.

The City of Flagstaff acquired 478 acres in 2012 to protect a culturally and ecologically sensitive area and provide a natural place for visitors to learn about ecology, geology, and archaeology, while participating in outdoor recreation.

Use the information outlined in this brochure to take a self-guided tour of the Preserve. When you finish your visit, either return this to the holder or take it home with you.

We hope you enjoy your visit!

**UNIQUE VEGETATION**

A number of different vegetative communities are present throughout the Preserve given the different habitats available, including riparian areas, forest uplands, and canyons. In fact, botanists have identified over 270 separate plant species. During your visit, keep an eye out for expansive meadows of native grasses and wildflowers, wetlands with cattails and willows, and canyon walls lined with grapevines and yuccas.

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPORTANCE**

The Northern Sinagua people occupied northern Arizona between 700 and 1300 A.D. As a result, Picture Canyon is home to an abundant collection of cultural resources from their occupancy. In fact, Picture Canyon has the greatest concentration of Northern Sinagua petroglyphs in Arizona.

During your visit, you will see a few of the nearly 800 petroglyph images etched into the canyon walls and boulders. Visit the Waterbird Site to see depictions of archers, turtles, large mammals, and birds. Please show respect and help us preserve these fragile cultural resources for future generations by not touching petroglyphs or removing any artifacts from the Preserve.

**HISTORICAL RESOURCES**

From 1887 to 1966, the ponderosa pine forests of northern Arizona were home to an extensive network of logging railroads. More than 770 miles of rail line were built for logging companies to access stands of timber for harvest. 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.

**WILDLIFE**

Picture Canyon is one of the premier wildlife and bird watching sites in the region given its designation as a Watchable Wildlife Site and Audubon Bird Sanctuary.

Be sure to visit the pond, a rare riparian habitat in Coconino County, for a chance to see one of the 130 bird species that visit the Preserve. Keep an eye out for raptors, oaks, bats, eagles, waterfowl, shorebirds, wading birds, or songbirds during your visit.

Mammals also call Picture Canyon home. Elk, deer, raccoon, and porcupines are common in the area.

Picture Canyon provides ample opportunity to observe wildlife, but please do so from a distance to ensure your safety.

**IT TAKES A VILLAGE**

To protect Picture Canyon, the City of Flagstaff has partnered with the American Conservation Experience to engage local community members in conservation efforts. These partnerships are an excellent example of how our community, using voter approved resources, can protect a special place in perpetuity.

**PICTURE CANYON PARTNERS**

Arizona Archaeological Society • Arizona Game and Fish Department • Arizona Historic Preservation Office • Arizona Historical Society • Arizona Public Service • Arizona State Land Department • Arizona State Parks • Arizona Trail Association • Arizona Watchable Wildlife Experience • Arizona Water Protection Fund • Arizona Wildlife Federation • Tom Bean Photography • City of Flagstaff • Coconino County • Coconino Natural Resource Conservation District • El Paso Natural Gas • EnviroSystems Management, Inc. • Flagstaff Area National Monuments • Flagstaff de Flag • Havasupai Tribe • Hopi Tribe • Hualapai Tribe • Kinder Morgan • Manterola Sheep Company • Morning Dew Landscaping • Museum of Northern Arizona • Native Plant Society • Natural Channel Design, Inc. • Natural Resources Conservation Service • Navajo Nation • Northern Arizona Audubon Society • Northern Arizona Trail Runners Association • Northern Arizona University Centennial Forest • Northland Research, Inc. • Paleowest Archaeology • Prescott Indian Tribe • Pueblo of Zuni • Rupestrian CyberServices • San Francisco Peaks Weed Management Area • Sierra Club, Grand Canyon Chapter • Sonoran Institute • Southwest Conservation Corps • University of Arizona Cooperative Extension Office • US Fish and Wildlife Service • US Forest Service • Yavapai Apache Nation
**Rules and Regulations**

**Day Use Only.** Picture Canyon is closed to camping, campfires, fuelwood 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. To enhance visitor experiences and reduce environmental impacts, please pick up after your pet.

For more information about Flagstaff natural areas: www.flagstaffaz.gov/openspace • 928-213-2154
www.flagstaffaz.gov/PictureCanyon
Stay up-to-date with the latest Picture Canyon news by following our Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/FlagstaffAZOpenSpace/

**Recreational 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.

**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 on the right side.