



## ARIZONA

### **City of Flagstaff**

#### **Creation of Picture Canyon Natural and Cultural Preserve**

After many years of tirelessly advocating that this exceptional area be preserved, in 2012, the City of Flagstaff [purchased](#) 478-acres of land just east of the city commonly known as Picture Canyon from the Arizona State Land Department for \$4.8 million with funding from the 2004 city voter-approved open space bond and a Growing Smarter Grant from Arizona State Parks.

This area has been home to Hopi, Zuni, and Ancestral Puebloan people since time immemorial and contains hundreds of petroglyphs depicting archers, geometric shapes, and local animals like birds and turtles.

After acquiring the land, the city renamed the area the [Picture Canyon Natural and Cultural Preserve](#) because it provides a natural place for members of the Flagstaff community to learn about ecology, geology, and archaeology while recreating outdoors. As a neighbor to the preserve, the [City of Flagstaff Wildcat Hill Wastewater Treatment Plant](#) ensures a year-long water source, providing critical riparian habitat for wildlife and songbirds.

City of Flagstaff, Arizona Former Vice-Mayor said, "I think that the America the Beautiful initiative is a great response to the climate and biodiversity challenges our country is facing. The City of Flagstaff's Greater Buffalo Park and Picture Canyon Natural and Cultural Preserve are two fantastic examples of locally-led and broadly supported conservation projects that can count toward the 30x30 goal."

#### **Passage of The Greater Buffalo Park Citizen Initiative**

In 2014, a group of dedicated and determined Flagstaff conservationists formed the [Greater Buffalo Park campaign](#) (Proposition 413) to place a [question](#) on the ballot for voters in the City of Flagstaff to preserve, as passive open space, 300-acres of centrally located spectacular city-owned land that was vulnerable to development.

After collecting thousands of signatures, the campaign committee placed the question on the November 2016 ballot. The local newspaper [endorsed](#) the measure, which the voters [approved by 87%](#).

