

Schultz Creek Survey Results Summary

This is a summary of the comments we received. There are additional comments that can be viewed on the Flagstaff Community Forum at: <https://www.flagstaff.az.gov/3284/Flagstaff-Community-Forum>

Overall themes in comments (Includes review of Community Forum survey, written comments, and verbal comments):

Flagstaff Open Space received over 500 responses during the survey period.

Regarding parking and infrastructure:

- 46% of respondents indicated that they would support parking for between 60 to 100 vehicles, while 45% support parking for 60 or less vehicles, and 5% prefer no parking development.
- Respondents indicated that infrastructure should include restrooms, a basic trail information kiosk/sign, and possibly some minimal interpretive signage.
- Feedback indicated that additional improvements such as picnic tables, running water at the trailhead, space for event staging, and additional trail signage were not as desired.

Feedback indicated an emphasis on maintaining the natural quality of the parcel by minimizing development, and potentially pursuing an opportunity to acquire part of parcel #30047005C (also known as “the Y” property at the intersection of Schultz Pass and Elden Lookout Roads) if an opportunity were to present itself. Comments pertaining to the topic of acquiring part of parcel #30047005C “the Y” indicate the location as preferred because it would minimize impact and because there is public familiarity with the site.

This survey also indicated several significant use trends. The Schultz Creek access point is a popular destination, especially for walking and mountain biking. It is used routinely on both weekdays and weekends spring through fall with noticeably less use in the winter. While the most typical form of transport used to access the area is via personal vehicles, 72% stated that they would consider taking alternative transportation to the trailhead and advocate for additional FUTS connections. Over half, at 54% of respondents indicated that they usually park at “the Y,” and before taking the community survey, 64% were not aware that it is a privately-owned parcel. The community is acutely aware of the popularity and high use of the area and suggest that proper management includes the promotion of other trailheads to more evenly disperse users to the greater Flagstaff area. The community also supports additional trail maintenance and the completion of missing trail links.

The following information is a summary of the comments we received. There were additional comments made, which can be viewed on the Flagstaff Community Forum at: <https://www.flagstaff.az.gov/3284/Flagstaff-Community-Forum>.

We appreciate the detailed and thorough feedback the community provided and will be considering all comments before establishing the best course of action. Thank you.

Topic Start: November 28th, 2018, 8:40AM

Topic End: March 31st, 2019, 11:59PM.

Community Feedback Request Resulted in:

- Total Community Forum Responses: 405
 - Community Forum Registered User Responses: 197
 - Community Forum Unregistered User Responses: 208
- Open House (2 events) Attendee Responses: 67
- Written Feedback submission: 1
- Numerous verbal comments conveyed to staff.
- Total comments: Over 500

Questions and Results:

- 1. Which activities do you partake or participate in at the Schultz Creek trails/area? (Rank activities you participate in from 1 to 5; 1 being the most common use you participate in, and 5 being the least common).**

Note: A was the most common response, in descending order to E which was the least common response.

- a. Walking/hiking/running
 - b. Biking
 - c. Wildlife Watching
 - d. Cross Country Skiing
 - e. Equestrian
- 2. On average, how often do you use the Schultz Creek trails?**
- a. **37%:** 1 to 2 times per week
 - b. **27%:** less than once a month
 - c. **26%:** 2 to 5 times per week
- 3. When do you typically use the trails in the Schultz Creek area?**
- a. **51%:** Equally on weekdays and weekends
 - b. **26%:** Weekdays
 - c. **23%:** Weekends
- 4. What time of day do you usually use the Schultz Creek trails? (check all that apply)**
- a. **68%:** 8AM-12PM
 - b. **47%:** 12PM-4PM
 - c. **30%:** 4PM-8PM
- 5. What time of year do you usually use the Schultz Creek trails? (check all that apply)**
- a. **76%:** Summer
 - b. **72%:** Fall
 - c. **64%:** Spring
 - d. **23%:** All time equally
 - e. **15%:** Winter
- 6. Should a Schultz Creek trailhead be open year-round to accommodate use?**
- a. **89%:** Yes
 - b. **5%:** No
 - c. **5%:** Other

7. How satisfied are you with current trailhead access and parking for the Schultz Creek trails?

- a. **38%:** Moderately Satisfied
- b. **30%:** Very Satisfied
- c. **25%:** Somewhat satisfied

8. How often do you experience these while using the Schultz Creek area? (0 being never experienced, 1 being rarely experienced, 3 being regularly experienced)

- a. Not enough available parking (regular vehicles, horse trailers, etc.)
 - 47%:** never experienced
 - 29%:** rarely experienced
 - 18%:** sometimes experienced
- b. Inadequate directions to trailheads
 - 48%:** never experienced
 - 24%:** rarely experienced
 - 16%:** sometimes experienced
- c. Insufficient trail descriptions, and/or area maps
 - 40%:** never experienced
 - 25%:** rarely experienced
 - 23%:** sometimes experienced
- d. Incomplete trail signage
 - 34%:** never experienced
 - 25%:** rarely experienced
 - 25%:** sometimes experienced
 - 13%:** regularly experienced

Comments:

- Majority of 'other' responses stated:
 - Toilets and trash service should be considered.
 - Adequate trail information should be available at the trailhead, but is not necessary along routes because many use web-based trail applications
 - Trails are braided due to unauthorized trails efforts should be made to correct this issue to reduce impact to landscape
 - The trail should be open year-round.
- Other topics mentioned in 'other' responses included:
 - The Forest Service Trailhead should not be closed until a solution is determined.
 - There is some user conflict between bikers and hikers
 - Some easier trails for beginners should be defined and labeled
 - current forest thinning project information should be posted at trailhead

9. Would you consider taking alternative transportation to the trailhead? (biking, walking, public transit, etc.)

- a. **72%:** Yes
- b. **28%:** No

10. Which potential future FUTS trails would you be most likely to use to access the Schultz Creek area by foot or bicycle?

- a. **37%:** Schultz Pass
- b. **37%:** Karen Cooper Trail to Schultz Pass Trail
- c. **35%:** Reservoir Trail
- d. **32%:** Fort Valley Trail to Schultz Pass Trail
- e. **28%:** Elks Lodge Trail
- f. **10%:** Other

11. How do you typically arrive at the Schultz Creek area? (0 being a mode of transportation never used, 1 being the least frequent mode of transportation used, and 3 being the most frequently used)

- a. Personal motorized vehicle
 - 7%: never used
 - 15%: least frequently used
 - 20%: sometimes used
 - 53%: most frequently used
- b. Bicycle
 - 15%: never used
 - 14%: least frequently used
 - 27%: sometimes used
 - 33%: most frequently used
- c. Foot
 - 31%: never used
 - 19%: least frequently used
 - 13%: sometimes used
 - 16%: most frequently used
- d. Bus/transit
 - 66%: never used
 - 3%: least frequently used
 - .5%: sometimes used
 - 0%: most frequently used
- e. Horse
 - 66%: never used
 - .3%: least frequently used
 - 1%: sometimes used
 - .8%: most frequently used

Comments:

- Majority of 'other' responses stated:
 - Motorcycle
- Other topics mentioned in 'other' responses included:
 - Carpool

12. Where have you typically accessed information on preferred parking locations for the Schultz Creek trail system? (select all that apply)

- a. 65%: Personal Experience
- b. 41%: Word of Mouth
- c. 21%: Other websites (Trail Forks, All Trails, Mountain Bike Project, etc.)
- d. 15%: Guidebook/paper maps
- e. 14%: Online maps (Google Maps, Open Street Map)
- f. 12%: Agency website (Coconino National Forest, Coconino County, City of Flagstaff)

13. If you drive a personal vehicle, where do you usually park to access Schultz Creek trails? (0 being never, 1 being the location you least typically park, and 3 being the location you most frequently park)

- a. The "Y" (intersection of Schultz Pass Rd. and Mt. Elden Rd.)
 - 10%: never
 - 13%: least frequent
 - 17%: sometimes
 - 54%: most frequent

b. The Forest Service Shultz Creek Trailhead (along Schultz Creek Rd.)

15%: never

19%: least frequent

21%: sometimes

28%: most frequent

c. Along Schultz Pass Road

42%: never

15%: least frequent

10%: sometimes

3%: most frequent

d. Schultz Pass Trailhead/ the Tank

24%: never

26%: least frequent

13%: sometimes

9%: most frequent

e. If you selected other, please specify:

Comments:

There were various responses with no distinctive majority in 'other' comments. Please see the full summary for more information. <https://www.flagstaff.az.gov/3284/Flagstaff-Community-Forum>.

14. Currently the unofficial parking lot, "the Y", roughly accommodates over 60 vehicles. If "the Y" no longer permitted parking, how should the Schultz Creek Open Space parcel (3620 W Schultz Pass Rd., Parcel # 30047004), be managed to accommodate trailhead parking?

a. 39%: Parking should accommodate between 60-100 vehicles

b. 30%: Parking should accommodate between 40-60 vehicles

c. 11%: Parking should accommodate 40 or less vehicles

d. 9%: Parking should accommodate over 100 vehicles

e. If you selected other, please specify:

Comments:

• Majority of 'other' responses stated:

○ Comments were split between providing additional parking and leaving the property undeveloped

• Other topics mentioned in 'other' responses included:

○ Provide restrooms

○ Provide trash service

○ Include parking for large vehicle/trailers

15. Prior to taking this survey, were you aware that the current parking lot area called, "the Y", is privately owned?

a. 64%: No

b. 35%: Yes

16. Which amenities would you like to see developed at the Schultz Creek Open Space parcel (3620 W Schultz Pass Rd.)? Score answers from 0 to 3, 0 being not needed/desired, 1 being least needed/desired, and 3 being most needed/desired)

a. Toilets

17%: not needed

8%: least needed

20%: sometimes needed

49%: most needed

- b. Running Water
 - 38%:** not needed
 - 15%:** least needed
 - 16%:** sometimes needed
 - 16%** most needed
- c. Picnic tables
 - 32%:** not needed
 - 19%:** least needed
 - 19%:** sometimes needed
 - 13%:** most needed
- d. Bicycle racks
 - 33%:** not needed
 - 19%:** least needed
 - 19%:** sometimes needed
 - 13%:** most needed
- e. A bicycle event staging area
 - 33%:** not needed
 - 18%:** least needed
 - 16%:** sometimes needed
 - 13%:** most needed
- f. Hitching posts for horses
 - 47%:** not needed
 - 20%:** least needed
 - 10%:** sometimes needed
 - 3%:** most needed
- g. An equestrian event staging area
 - 55%:** not needed
 - 14%:** least needed
 - 5%:** sometimes needed
 - 2%:** most needed
- h. Interpretive signage
 - 22%:** not needed
 - 19%:** least needed
 - 22%:** sometimes needed
 - 18%:** most needed
- i. ADA accessible trail
 - 31%:** not needed
 - 18%:** least needed
 - 18%:** sometimes needed
 - 10%:** most needed
- j. Trail information/map kiosk
 - 10%:** not needed
 - 11%:** least needed
 - 25%:** sometimes needed
 - 46%:** most needed
- k. No improvements
 - 27%:** not needed
 - 6%:** least needed
 - 5%:** sometimes needed
 - 10%:** most needed

1. If you selected other, please specify:

Comments:

- Majority of 'other' responses stated:
 - Trash services
 - Restrooms
- Other topics mentioned in 'other' responses included:
 - Bike mechanical stand with pump and wrenches
 - An ADA accessible trail.

17. If you had \$10,000 to spend on the Schultz Creek Trailhead and surrounding area, how would you allocate it across the following categories? (1 dot = \$1,000)

- a. **28%:** Maintaining existing trails
- b. **25%:** New trails/ complete missing links
- c. **18%:** Improving trailhead (parking, bike racks, maps
- d. **15%:** Benches, picnic areas, bathrooms, water, etc.
- e. **10%:** Improving signs: mileage, directions, interpretation/ education

18. Do you have other comments you would like to share about the Schultz Creek area/ trails?

- a. These comments can be viewed on the Flagstaff Community Forum, see link below.
<https://www.flagstaff.az.gov/3284/Flagstaff-Community-Forum>