

Management Plan for Legally-Designated Open Space Properties

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Discussion Topics



- Background
 - Plan's Purpose
 - Program's Goals
 - Plan's Organization and Chapters
 - Review changes
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- Ask City Council to adopt the updated plan.





Background



- 1998: Open Spaces and Greenways Plan
- 2003: Open Spaces Commission
- 2004: Open Space bond initiatives
- 2010: City Staff began managing open space
- 2012: Picture Canyon Natural and Cultural Preserve
- 2013: Observatory Mesa Natural Area





Background



- 2013: City Council incorporated Schultz Creek to open space program
- 2015: City Council approves Open Space Specialist position
- 2016: Prop. 413 protected McMillan Mesa as open space
- 2018: City Council approves Open Space Specialist perm. position



Plan's Purpose



- Management Plan's Purpose
 - Identifies management goals, policies, and improvement projects
- Benefits of a Management Plan
 - Ensures proper and effective management
 - Provides continuity of management
 - Provides a framework for decision making





Management Goals

1. Ecosystem health
2. Cultural resources
3. Wildlife populations
4. Sustainable public use
5. Partnerships





Plan Organization

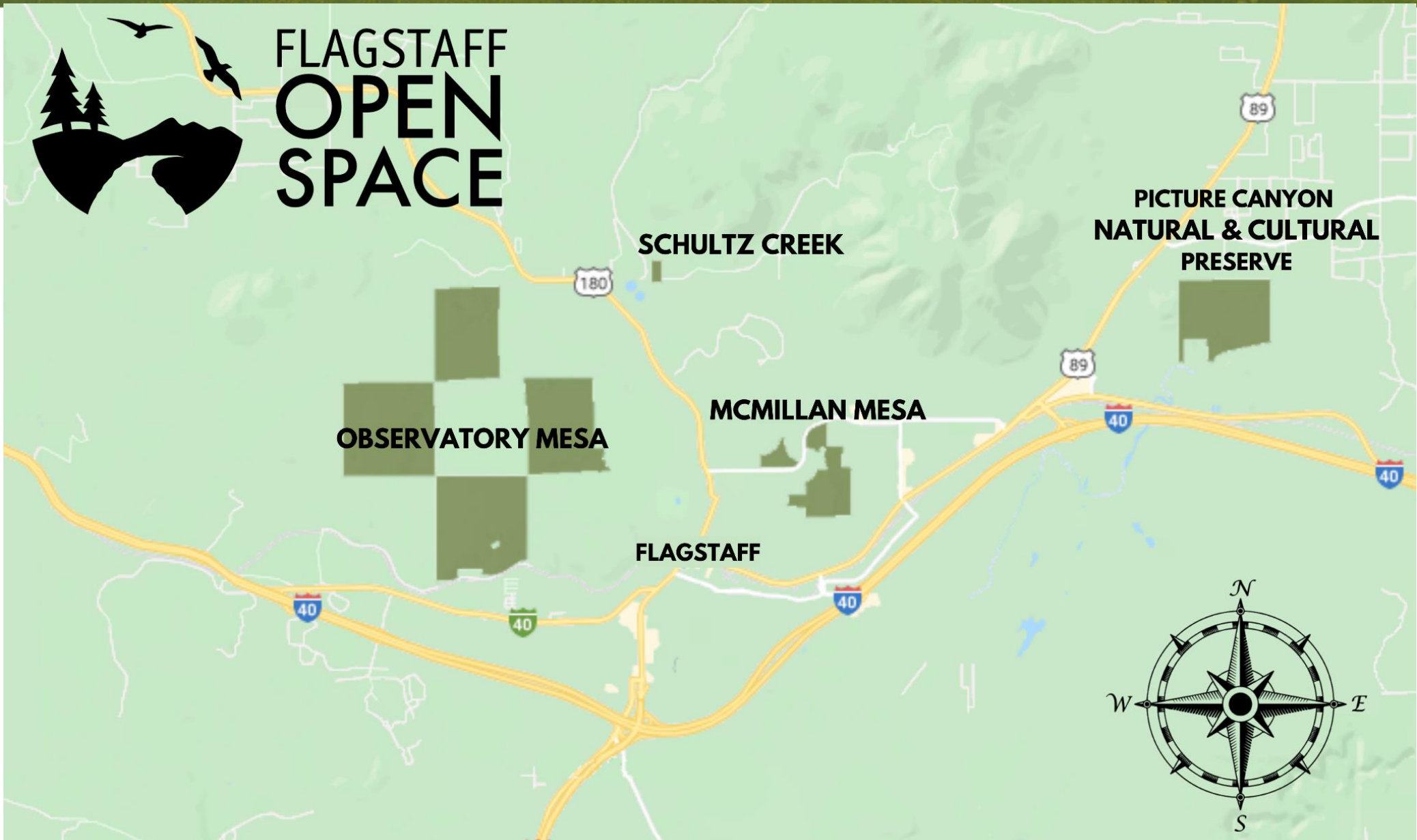
Seven Chapters:

- Management Coordination
- General Management Policies
- Picture Canyon Natural and Cultural Preserve
- Observatory Mesa Natural Area
- McMillan Mesa Natural Area
- Complementary Open Space
- Open Space Connectors





FLAGSTAFF OPEN SPACE





Chapter 1: Management Coordination

Open Space Program Partners:

- Arizona Game and Fish Department
- Arizona State Parks
- City of Flagstaff Commissions
- City of Flagstaff work groups
- Coconino County
- Coconino National Forest
- Flagstaff Fire Department
- Local organizations
- Volunteers





Chapter 2: General Management Policies

- Natural Resources
 - Water, Forest & Grassland Health, Wildlife
- Cultural and Historic Resources
- Public Use
 - Access Management, Recreational Use, Roads, Easements and Leases, Education and Research, Facility Development





Chapter 3: Picture Canyon Preserve

- Significant cultural resources
- Rare riparian and wetland habitats
- Endangered species
- Substantial public use
 - Recreation
 - Education





Priority Action Plan – Picture Canyon

Action	Estimated Cost	Funding Source
Provide Adequate Access to Picture Canyon through Land Purchase.	\$75,000	Funding has not been identified for this project.
Provide Adequate Access to Picture Canyon trail system completion.	\$900,000	Funding has not been identified for this project.
Install Composting Toilets	\$250,000	Funding has not been identified for this project.
Manage Invasive Plants	\$12,500	Currently underfunded by base budget (with help from volunteers this is being completed).
Maintain Access via, El Paso Flagstaff Road Maintenance	Unknown (estimate \$50k, \$25k)	Funding has not been identified for this project.



Chapter 4: Observatory Mesa Natural Area

- Active grazing on adjacent land
- Wildlife
 - Endangered species
 - Wildlife corridor
- Substantial public use
 - FUTS trails
 - Hunting
 - Access





Priority Action Plan – Observatory Mesa

Action	Estimated Cost	Funding Source
Develop a trail system plan for hiking, biking, and equine trails of varying intensity.	\$1,500,000	Included in Open Space Specialist work plan.
Construct additional fencing and infrastructure along boundaries to limit the potential for cattle trespass onto City property, while allowing for wildlife movement.	\$15,000	Included in Open Space Specialist work plan.
Manage Invasive Plants	\$12,500	Currently not funded.
Conduct a NEPA analysis and a cultural point survey along proposed trail corridor to prevent impacts to cultural sites	\$18,000	Funding has not been identified for this project.
Design educational programs and interpretive	\$10,000	Currently not funded.



Chapter 5: McMillan Mesa Natural Area

- Public Use
 - Access Management, Recreational Use, Easements and Leases, Education and Research, Facility Development
- Natural Resources
 - Water, Vegetation, Forest Health, Wildlife
- Cultural and Historic Resources





Priority Action Plan – McMillan Mesa

Action	Estimated Cost	Funding Source
McMillan Mesa Natural Area Enhancements	\$250,000	Funding has not been identified for this project.
Expansion of Experiential Educational Curriculum for FUSD Teachers.	\$25,000	Included in Open Space Specialist work plan.
Manage Invasive Plants	\$12,500	Currently not funded.
Survey the property for endangered species.	Unknown	Possibly use base budget for Open Space.



Chapter 6: Complimentary Open Space

- Properties generally smaller than the regional preserves
- Add to the user experience and provide additional value to the existing system
- Provide buffers, protect viewsheds, offer “neighborwoods” access, improve trail transit





Chapter 7: Open Space Connectors

- Link regional preserves and complementary open space
- Utilize Flagstaff Urban Trail System, washes, hillsides, floodplains, or other areas that are not fit for development



Summary



Legally Designated Open Space Management Plan

- Provides a philosophical framework for managing legally designated Open Space
- Prioritizes improvement project
- Identifies needed maintenance



Questions?

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