

Open Space Commission Update



October 31, 2023

Discussion Topics



Topics

- Commission's Authority
- History
- Recent Accomplishments
- Current Projects
- Future Projects
- Recommendations to Council





Open Space Commission Authority



Mission: To advocate and support the development of the Flagstaff Open Space System, while preserving current Flagstaff Open Space, and providing equitable recreational opportunities and educational experiences.





Open Space Commission History

History

- 1998 Open Space Program founded
- 2003 Open Space Commission formed
- 2004 Flagstaff voters approved two open space bond initiatives
- 2015 CC approved OS position
- 2023 CC approved a 2nd OS position
- 2023 CC approved 1-year grant funded position





Community Goals & Benefits

Community Focused Goals

- Goal 1: Assist in bringing about an expanded, integrated Open Space system.
- Goal 2: Realize sustainable long-term funding for the Flagstaff Open Space system.

Positive Impacts

- Community Character
- Economic Benefit
- Equity



Important Terminology

- 1. Regional Preserves:** Existing legally designated open space hubs that are essential to building an integrated system
- 2. Connectors:** Links to Open Space regional preserves; these can be FUTS, washes, hillsides, floodplains, etc.
- 3. Complimentary Open Space:** these parcels add to the user experience and provide additional value to the integrated system, e.g., buffers, viewshed, transit, neighborwoods



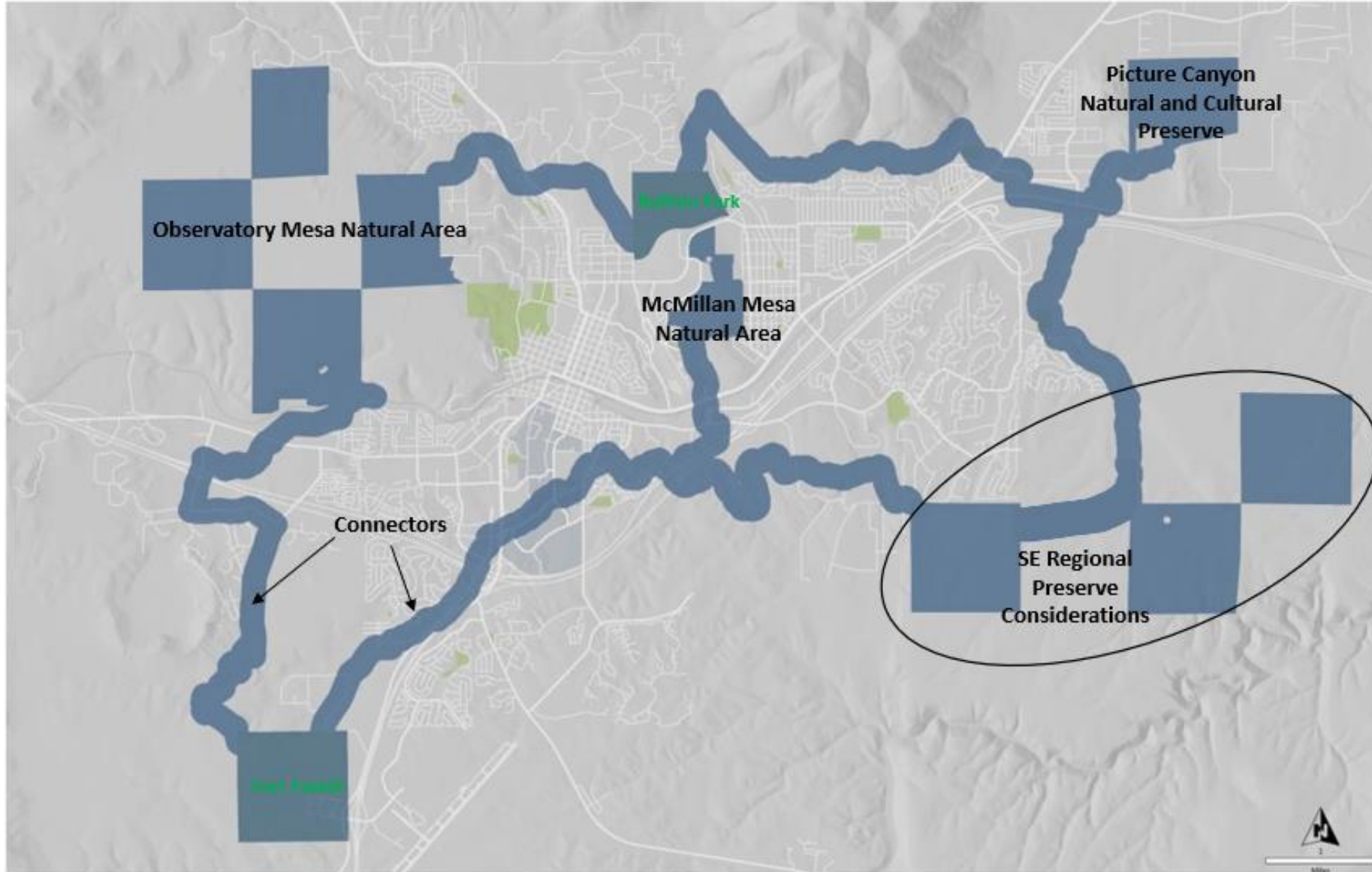


Existing OS Regional Preserves





Connectors & Regional Preserves





Upholding PBB and Other Goals

PBB Support

CITY OF FLAGSTAFF Priority Based Budgeting Priorities and Objectives						
High Performing Governance	Safe & Healthy Community	Inclusive & Engaged Community	Sustainable, Innovative Infrastructure	Robust Resilient Economy	Livable Community	Environmental Stewardship
Serve the public by providing high quality customer service	Enhance community engagement & strengthen relationships between the community & public safety services	Foster community pride & civic engagement by increasing opportunities for public involvement, in line with best practices & legal requirements	Deliver outstanding services to residents through a healthy, well maintained infrastructure system	Support & strengthen a more robust, diverse, & sustainable economy in ways that reflect community values & provides for affordable housing opportunities	Create a welcoming community through partnerships, resilient neighborhoods, & civic engagement	Promote, protect & enhance a healthy, sustainable environment & its natural resources
Foster community-wide clear & consistent communication strategies & products	Support social services, community partners & housing opportunities	Advance social equity & social justice in Flagstaff by supporting social services	Utilize existing long-range plan(s) that identify the community's future infrastructure needs & all associated costs	Maintain & enhance an equitable & effective business recruitment, retention, & expansion program throughout the community	Provide amenities & activities that support a healthy lifestyle	Engage community members through education & volunteer opportunities
Encourage public trust through transparency, accessibility & use of the City's public participation policy	Provide alternative responses, resources & programs, inclusive of mental health & other services	Facilitate & foster diversity & inclusivity, including support of anti-racist policies & practices	Provide effective management of and infrastructure for all modes of transportation	Enhance understanding between the development community, the City & Flagstaff residents	Support regional partners which provide equitable & inclusive educational opportunities for Flagstaff residents of all ages	Implement sustainable building practices, enhance waste diversion programs, alternative energy programs & multi-modal transportation options
Enhance the organization's fiscal stability & increase efficiency & effectiveness	Provide public safety services with resources, staff & training responsive to the community's needs	Enhance community involvement, education & regional partnerships to strengthen the level of public trust	Facilitate & develop carbon-neutral energy opportunities	Attract employers that provide high quality jobs & have a low impact on infrastructure & natural resources	Actively support attainable & affordable housing through City projects & opportunities with developers	Increase the private sector's participation in environmental stewardship efforts
Implement innovative local government programs, new ideas & best practices; be recognized as a model for others to follow	Promote physical health through providing recreation opportunities, parks, open space & multiple transportation options	Ensure city facilities, services, & programs are accessible for all residents & representative of Flagstaff's diverse community	Support the community's social infrastructure needs; assist those partner organizations that provide services the City does not	Enhance the community's workforce development programs & improve partnerships with higher education institutions & the private & public sectors	Support diverse employment opportunities that provide residents with a living wage	Implement, maintain & further the Climate Action & Adaptation Plan (CAAP) with awareness of social inequities
Be an employer of choice through inclusive recruitment & by providing employees with the necessary tools, training, support & compensation	Ensure the built environment is safe through the use of consistent standards, rules & regulations, & land use practices	Promote environmental justice & the fair distribution of environmental benefits		Embrace & invest in responsible tourism opportunities to promote economic development	Achieve a well-maintained community through comprehensive & equitable code compliance, & development that is compatible with community values	Strengthen Flagstaff's resilience to climate change impacts on built, natural, economic, health, & social systems

THE OBJECTIVES LISTED IN THIS DOCUMENT WERE APPROVED BY COUNCIL ON NOVEMBER 10, 2020.



Recent Accomplishments



Projects Completed

- Commission Strategic Plan
- Open Space System Prioritization
- McMillan Mesa Rezone
- Grants:
 - Department of Forestry and Fire Management, Invasive Plant Grants
 - Arizona State Parks and Trails, Recreational Trails Program Grant
 - Arizona State Parks and Trails, Environmental Education Heritage Grant





Current Commission Projects

Current Focus

- Observatory Mesa Natural Area trail plan recommendation
- Progress towards Open Space System and 10-minute walking (1/4 mile) access time
- Open Space preservation along JWP





Future Commission Projects

Future Focus

- Partner with PROSE on Master Plan Development
- Review projects and proposals that affect open space
- City code updates
- Progress toward establishing an interconnected system
- Achieve a sustainable funding source





Recommendations for City Council



Recommendations

- Consider open space when reviewing developments and rezoning requests
- Collaborate to secure sustainable funding to preserve and manage current open space
- Work with partners to implement the open space system



Open Space Commissioners

Chair: Wm. Mike Wilson

Vice Chair: Bruce Applin

Comm: Bruce Fox

Comm: Mary Norton (P&Z liaison)

Comm: Jacqueline Thomas

Comm: Lina Wallen

Comm: Nat White



Thank you!
Questions?