

NOTICE AND AGENDA

OPEN SPACE COMMISSION
MONDAY
DECEMBER 9, 2024

HYBRID MEETING
FLAGSTAFF AQUAPLEX
AND [MICROSOFT TEAMS](#)
1702 N FOURTH STREET
4:00 P.M.

1. Call to Order

2. Roll Call

NOTE: One or more Commissioner may be in attendance through other technological means.

Chair Bruce Applin	Commissioner Lina Wallen
Co-Chair Jacqueline Thomas	Commissioner Nat White
Commissioner Mary Norton (P&Z Liaison)	Councilmember Representative: Deborah Harris
Commissioner Bruce Fox	

3. Land Acknowledgment

The Flagstaff Open Space Commission humbly acknowledges the ancestral homelands of this area's Indigenous nations and original stewards. These lands, still inhabited by Native descendants, border mountains sacred to Indigenous peoples. We honor them, their legacies, their traditions, and their continued contributions. We celebrate their past, present, and future generations who will forever know this place as home.

4. Approval of the October 28, 2024 Minutes

5. Public Comment

At this time, any member of the public may address the Commission on any subject that is not scheduled before the Commission on this day. The Arizona Open Meeting Law prohibits the Commission from discussing or taking action on an item which is not listed on the prepared agenda. Commission members may, however, respond to criticism made by those addressing the Commission, ask staff to review a matter, or ask that a matter be placed on a future agenda. To address the Commission on an item that is on the agenda, please wait for the Chair to call for Public Comment at the time the item is heard.

6. Business Items

A. Regional Plan Review and Recommendation

- Decision Item: Review, finalize, and vote on the Commission's recommendation

B. Project Prioritization and Multi-year Project Planning

- Informational and Discussion Item.

7. Reports and Updates

A. Council Representative Report, Council Representative Deborah Harris

B. Planning and Zoning Commission Representative Report, Representative Mary Norton

C. Open Space Management Report, Robert Wallace and Sylvia Struss

D. PROSE Monthly Newsletter

- October 2024 Monthly Newsletter
- November 2024 Monthly Newsletter

8. **Informational Items To and From Commissioners and Staff**

9. **Potential Future Agenda Items**

A. **Next Meeting January 27, 2024**

- **Observatory Mesa Trail Plan**

10. **Adjournment**

CERTIFICATE OF POSTING OF NOTICE

The undersigned hereby certifies that a copy of the foregoing notice was duly posted at Flagstaff City Hall on December 3, 2024, at 4:00 p.m. This notice has been posted on the City's website and can be downloaded at www.flagstaff.az.gov.

Dated this 3rd day of December, 2024.

Annie Ridgell

Annie Ridgell, Administrative Specialist

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact Annie Ridgell (annie.ridgell@flagstaffaz.gov) at least two business days prior to the scheduled meeting time to enable the City to make reasonable arrangements.



Open Spaces Commission

4.

From: Annie Ridgell, PROSE Administrative Specialist

DATE: 12/09/2024

SUBJECT: Approval of the October 28, 2024 Minutes

STAFF RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Executive Summary:

Attachments

Approval of October 28, 2024 Minutes

DRAFT
OPEN SPACE COMMISSION MEETING

OPEN SPACE COMMISSION
MONDAY
OCTOBER 28, 2024
4:00 P.M.

HYBRID MEETING
FLAGSTAFF AQUAPLEX
AND [MICROSOFT TEAMS](#)
1702 N FOURTH STREET

1. **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 4:00pm (recording of the meeting did not start until 4:42pm).

2. **Roll Call**

NOTE: One or more Commissioner may be in attendance through other technological means.

Present:

Chair Bruce Applin
Vice Chair Jacqueline Thomas
Commissioner Bruce Fox
Commissioner Lina Wallen
City Council Liaison Deborah Harris

Absent:

Commissioner Mary Norton
Commissioner Nat White

Staff and Other Present:

Robert Wallace
Rebecca Sayers
Sylvia Struss
Ashlee Fliney
Annie Ridgell
William Michael Wilson
Michele James
Diana Henry
Rick Ruess
Duane Koyawena
Jane Jackson
Sandy Carrigg
Karen Malis-Clark
Shannon Clark
Susan Clampith
Kathy Flaccus
Elsa Erling (City staff)
Sara Dechter (City staff)
Martin Ince (City staff)

3. **Land Acknowledgment**

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4. **Approval of the September 23, 2024 Minutes**

Commissioner Wallen motioned to approve the September 23, 2024 Minutes, Commissioner Applin seconded and all voted in favor.

5. **Public Comment**

At this time, any member of the public may address the Commission on any subject that is not scheduled before the Commission on this day. The Arizona Open Meeting Law prohibits the Commission from discussing or taking action on an item which is not listed on the prepared agenda. Commission members may, however, respond to criticism made by those addressing the Commission, ask staff to review a matter, or ask that a matter be placed on a future agenda. To address the Commission on an item that is on the agenda, please wait for the Chair to call for Public Comment at the time the item is heard.

Robert Wallace introduced Annie Ridgell, PROSE's new Administrative Specialist, who will be taking Minutes in the future.

6. **Business Items**

A. **Jack Welch Picture Canyon Memorial Bridge Proposal**

Jane Jackson presented on the renaming of the Picture Canyon footbridge to be the Jack Welch Memorial Bridge. She recounted the history of Jack Welch educating the public about Picture Canyon's attributes and obstacles in his JWalker hikes and at City Council, and his incredible advocacy for its protection. The JWalker group raised funds for a memorial bench at Frances Short Pond, and they proposed a plaque for the bridge, along the lines of the plaque at the Cosmic Ray tunnel, with footprints to memorialize his love and leadership of hiking. Ms. Jackson mentioned that JWalker members would check on and maintain the plaque. A petition with more than 50 signatures was accepted by City Council and sent to the Open Spaces Commission.

Diana Henry presented on having artwork accompany the plaque. She talked about Dine and Hopi ancestry at Picture Canyon, which is why she and others want Hopi artist Duane Koyawena's artwork to accompany the plaque. She will be submitting an Arts & Beautification grant application in early 2025, with numerous supporters, and she requested a Letter of Support from the Commission for that grant application. Mr. Koyawena presented himself and his proposed artwork representing Jack Welch's passing.

Vice Chair Thomas asked for public comment. Karen Malis-Clark acknowledged the Friends of the Rio de Flag, Willow Bend Environmental Education Center, and all the folks who signed the petition in support of naming the Memorial Bridge. She liked the idea of the bridge (being a connection), as well as memorializing him upstream at Frances Short Pond and downstream at Picture Canyon.

Mr. Wallace indicated the presenters were looking for a "head nod" to move forward and can bring it back to the commission for a formal recommendation to City Council. After a short discussion, the commission was in favor of seeing the memorial project plaque and artwork move forward. The commission asked that this be placed on a future agenda.

B. **Flagstaff Regional Plan 2045 Update**

Elsa Erling, Associate Planner in Comprehensive Planning with the City presented the Regional Plan update. She noted that Senior Planner Sara Dechter was online for questions, and Melissa Shaw was involved with Coconino County. The plan is now available for public input, and everyone is encouraged to look at a hard copy (available at City Hall and the Library), or online. The different phases have been:

1. Gain an understanding of how the current plan is working.
2. What's Possible/What's the Vision?
3. Plan Creation (the plan is presently in this phase to review the draft, looking toward getting it on next year's ballot).
4. Plan Adoption.

The Regional Plan Committee met 15 times over 9 months, and videos of those meetings are available on the City's website. A 60-day public review started October 20, 2024, and ends December 19, 2024. There will be four workshops:

- November 13, 2024 evening at Public Works Yard on Rt 66, focused on transportation,
- November 14, 2024 evening at the Aquaplex, focused on Parks, Open Space & Recreation, Resource Stewardship & Resilience,
- November 16, 2024 midday at Flagstaff HS midday, focused on Growth and Land Use, and
- November 18, 2024 evening at Cromer Elementary, focused on water, energy, public safety, and infrastructure.

There will also be a December 4, 2024 closing webinar to review everything. There are also office hours Fridays 11am-2pm (except November 29th) at City Hall, and presentations to commissions and boards. Plan comments are hosted on Konveio, which is the platform the County uses. Commissions may create a committee to submit comments on behalf of the Commission, and/or individual comments are welcome.

After December 19, 2024, staff will analyze and incorporate public comments; if any complex issues are raised with lots of feedback, staff may elect to revise the plan. This will be followed by a final legal review, and in Spring 2025, it will be sent to City Council and County Supervisors for review, looking to have it on the November 2025 ballot.

Overall, the focus of the Plan includes five priorities:

1. Create more housing attainability,
2. Create mixed-use, denser neighborhoods that support different housing types and active transportation,
3. Reduce community-generated climate pollution/protect air quality,
4. Protect the region's significant natural & cultural resources, and
5. Expand the region's preparedness & resilience to hazards and climate change.

The Goals, Policies and Land Use categories, Implementation Guidelines, and Action Items are important to review. There are several maps, including Future Growth Illustration (note that desired private and state land cannot be shown), Future Regional Parks & Open Space Needs map, and Significant Natural Resources Map.

With regard to Parks, Recreation & Open Space, the overall goal is a regional system of parks, open spaces and community centers that support the regional public and environmental health, and provides diverse recreation needs, are accessible, and are interconnected by trails and greenways between Flagstaff, regional open space & other county communities. There are 6 PROS policies to review. Action Items related to Open Space are: Leverage available funding to purchase lands for Parks and Open Space; Consider a City and/or County bond; Engage with AZ State Land Department to create opportunities for future development; and Open Space preservation.

There are other guidelines, goals and action items that affect Open Space, such as cultural and natural resources, and wildlife corridors.

Commissioner Norton sent a note that this would be the Open Space Commission's only opportunity for the Commission to comment on the plan. There could be a committee (no more than 3 Commissioners) to review the 200-page document and present potential comments to the Commission. Ms. Dechter indicated the Commission could request an extension beyond December 19, 2024. It was discussed that Commission comments could be more powerful, though the time crunch could be difficult. There was consensus that each person will review the plan individually and email their top two strengths and weaknesses (forcing Commissioners to focus on the most important things) to Commissioner Fox by November 25, 2024, who will then synthesize those comments, draft a letter, and present to the Commission at the next meeting. Commissioner Fox can meet with staff to clarify any questions. Ms. Erling encouraged the Commissioners to focus on Chapter 8 PROS, Chapter 7 Resource Stewardship & Resilience and Wildlife Corridors, and Goals & Policies Chapter 3.

C. Open Space Commission November/December Meeting Dates

Commissioner Fox motioned to combine the November and December meetings to December 9, 2024 4-6pm at the Aquaplex Community Room. Commissioner Wallen seconded, and all voted in favor.

D. Project Prioritization and Multi-year Project Planning

Robert Wallace reviewed the provided list of proposed project considerations for using future BBB funds. This meeting is informational. The next meeting will have a prioritization exercise where Commissioners can rank priorities. There was some discussion about whether projects were high maintenance or low maintenance--would these decisions put a burden on another section or division? Commissioners were encouraged not to focus on costs and burdens, but rather on which projects they want in the 5-year plan/which are most important. Then it is the staff's work to figure out the details. Also, when the BBB funds are reviewed and approved by this Commission, it will have the opportunity to figure out when/how projects will be funded, and whether money will be saved for bigger projects.

There was discussion about breaking projects down into two categories: maintenance of current assets, and acquisition of additional open spaces.

7. Reports and Updates

A. Council Representative Report, Council Representative Deborah Harris

Council Representative Report, Deborah Harris noted that it is important to take care of what we have and address deferred maintenance issues and figure out how to get developers to give us open space, or designate city-owned property as open space. Also encouraged the Commission to look at the concept of open space broadly--including small neighborhood parcels.

B. Planning and Zoning Commission Representative Report, Representative Mary Norton

Planning and Zoning Commission Representative Report: Commissioner Norton noted in writing that she did not have anything to share.

C. Open Space Management Report, Robert Wallace and Sylvia Struss

Open Space Management Report: Mr. Wallace reported that the Archaeological Survey of McMillan Mesa is finally complete, which will allow us to apply for funds to install signs. We completed the Kahtoola grant. Ms. Struss reported that the stone steps at Petroglyph Overlook and the realignment of the trail at the Waterbird Petroglyph Site are complete at Picture Canyon.

D. PROSE Monthly Newsletter

8. Informational Items To and From Commissioners and Staff

Mr. Wallace reported on the Observatory Mesa Trail Plan, noting that Southwest Decision Resources is synthesizing the latest community survey input, and that will be presented at the next Commission meeting. He also provided an update on the Hidden Hollow easement--next steps are for City staff to assist in presenting it to the State Parks Board on November 14, 2024.

9. Potential Future Agenda Items

- Jack Welch Memorial Bridge
- Regional Plan Comments and Prioritization

10. Adjournment

Commissioner Fox motioned to adjourn, Commissioner Wallen seconded. They all voted in favor.

The meeting ended at 6:07pm.



Open Spaces Commission

6. A.

Co-Submitter: Rebecca Sayers, Parks, Recreation, Open Space, and Events Director

From: Robert Wallace, Open Space Supervisor

DATE: 12/09/2024

SUBJECT: Regional Plan Review and Recommendation

STAFF RECOMMENDED ACTION:

- Decision Item: Review, finalize, and vote on the Commission's recommendation

Executive Summary:

The Flagstaff Regional Plan 2045 is open for a 60-day review from October 20 to December 19, 2024. This is an important opportunity to review the complete plan and to discuss the community vision that it represents. The Open Space Commission elected at their October 2024 meeting to review the plan individually and prepare an integrated formal recommendation.

Attachments

Regional Plan Memo

Regional Plan Presentation



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

MEMORANDUM

Date: October 21, 2024

To: Open Space Commission

From: Sara Dechter, AICP, Comprehensive Planning Manager

Subject: Flagstaff Regional Land Use Plan 2045 60-day public review

The City of Flagstaff and Coconino County have been jointly working on the Flagstaff Regional Land Use Plan 2045 since the summer 2022. This comprehensive update is a critical check in with the public and the community on how the development and conservation of land and infrastructure can be managed to maintain a resilient and inclusive community. Over the past 9 months, a Regional Plan Committee has been meeting with staff and reviewing draft content for the plan update. On Monday, September 30, the committee reviewed and endorsed a complete draft of the plan. The Draft plan will be posted to the project website at www.flagstaff.az.gov/regionalplan2045.

Following endorsement, the draft goes out to other government agencies, boards, commissions, councils, and the public for a required 60-day public review, which began on Sunday, October 20th. On October 21st, Sara Dechter presented to the Parks and Recreation Commission on the Plan and public review period.

What is in the draft plan concerning Open Space?

In the Regional Plan 2030, open space was addressed in the Open Space Chapter within the Natural Environment section. This chapter had 1 goal and 5 policies. There was a separate Recreation Chapter in the Human Environment section with 1 goal and 5 policies. The draft plan has a combined Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Chapter with 1 goal and 6 policies:

Goal PROS: The regional system of parks, open spaces, and community centers supports the Region's public and environmental health, provides diverse recreational needs, is accessible to residents and visitors, and is

interconnected by trails and greenways between Flagstaff, regional open space, and other County communities.

Policy PROS.1 Incorporate and highlight the Region's defining landscapes and vistas through landscape design in trails, parks, and open spaces.

Policy PROS.2 Focus the purchase and management of regional preserves and connector open spaces on protecting cultural or significant natural resources, while allowing for concentrated development in areas that support housing supply and climate action.

Policy PROS.3 Provide urban parks and complementary open spaces that support livable and sustainable compact development.

Policy PROS.4 As greenfield sites are developed, ensure that new parks and open spaces have a balance of amenities and a flow with the natural and historical surroundings, are publicly accessible, and provide complementary amenities to existing public parks in the Region.

Policy PROS.5 Plan and design regional parks that support larger public events sustainably and support diverse recreational opportunities within the same park.

Policy PROS.6 Create and maintain opportunities for access to recreation and community centers through adaptive reuse of appropriate buildings, partnerships with non-profit organizations and neighborhoods, and new construction identified in master plans.

There are also related Growth and Land Use and Resource Stewardship and Resilience goals and policies about civic space and protecting significant natural resources:

Goal GM: Future development and reinvestment patterns in the Region integrate the community values of the importance of open space preservation, significant natural resources, the scarcity of water, the need to adapt to and avoid climate change, the Region's unique sense of place, and of meeting the needs of current and future residents and businesses.

Policy DP.10 Locate public civic spaces and natural areas to be accessible to pedestrians within the Neighborhood or Center they serve.

Policy RS.8: Incorporate the protection, conservation, and restoration of significant natural resources (see Information Maps 7-2 and 7-3) in the development of regulations and property acquisition, particularly for sensitive and uncommon habitats, and landscapes that support the health and resilience of regional wildlife and plant populations, ecosystems, or Carbon Dioxide Removal (CDR).

There is a Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Policy Map which identifies existing open space, parks, recreation centers, and areas in the Region where there is a need to acquire land for parks or open space. In the southwest portion of the Region, the map includes the area identified by the Joint Land Use Study for open space preservation. On the east side, around Walnut Canyon, the map identifies an area where there is a need for cultural resource and wildlife corridor protection.

Significant natural resources are described in the Resource Stewardship and Resilience Chapter by an informational map and associated implementation guidelines for protecting a range of mapped and unmapped resources.

The draft plan carries forward and updates the approach to viewshed management, focusing on landscape design in parks and open space. In the Regional Plan 2030, this topic was addressed in an overarching Community Character Chapter, which was not carried forward in the current draft.

In the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Chapter, the draft plan emphasizes trail connectivity, wildlife corridors, and the need to fund and plan for future open space as greenfield sites are developed. The Chapter includes findings from the 2019 Coconino County Parks & Recreation Master Plan and has an action item for the update of the City's Parks, Recreation, Open Space, and Events Master Plan. The chapter contains implementation guidelines, which will be carried forward through the City's upcoming PROSE master planning process.

What kind of feedback is staff looking for?

Staff encourages all commissioners to review the draft plan during the 60 day public review and to help spread the word on this important opportunity for feedback. Commissions may wish to form working groups to review the plan and provide formal comments by December 19, 2024.

Flagstaff Regional Plan Update for 2045

Sara Dechter, Melissa Shaw, and a
cast of a hundred other staff





Process for Updating the Plan

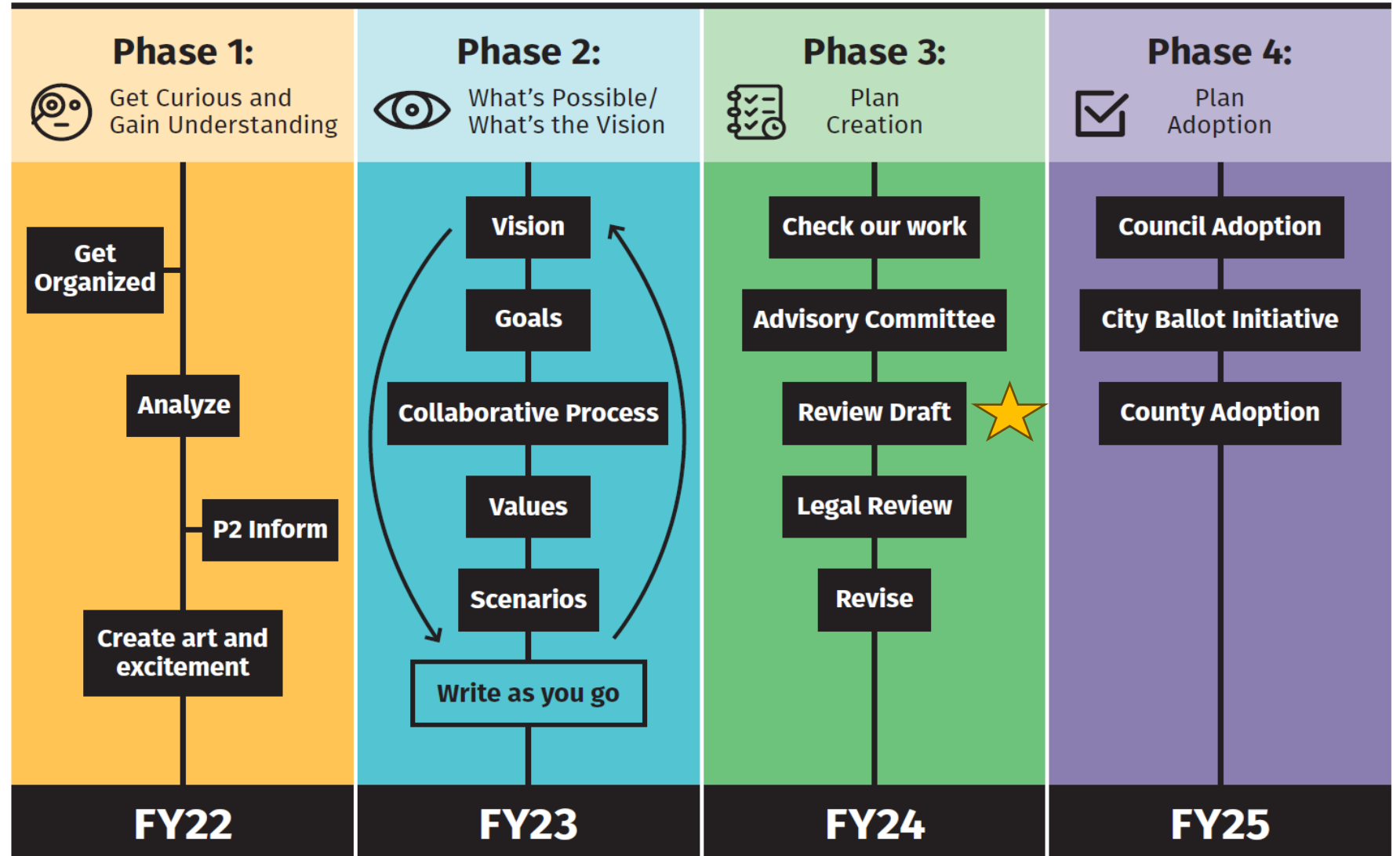


Levels of Public Participation

Plan Development & County Adoption:
Collaborate

City Adoption:
Empower

Regional Plan 2045 Update Process



Regional Plan Committee



- Endorsed the plan on Mon, Sept 30
- Selected by the City and County Manager based on recommendations from elected officials.
- Held 15 meetings over 9 months.
- Meetings were open to the public including formal boards, commissions and Council.
- Reviewed Chapter by Chapter and then the whole document





60-day public review

October

Oct 20

60-day Review Starts

Oct. 21

Opening Webinar

Staff – Collecting case studies

November

Nov 13, 14, 16 & 18
Community Workshops

Staff – Testing case studies

December

Dec 4 Closing Webinar

Staff – Create case study report and suggested edits

Review Period Ends Dec 19
at 5pm

Office Hours on Fridays from 11am to 2pm (except 11/29)

Board, Commission and Council discussions at their regular meetings

Plan comments hosted on Konveio

An easy to use, interactive document comment platform.



Public Engagement for Coconino County

60-Day Public Review Draft Flagstaff Regional Land Use Plan 2045

NOTE: This document is separated into chapters that can be navigated using the buttons at the bottom or the pulldown menu at the top of this page. Note that the hyperlinks internal to the document do not function in this format. If you would like to view the entire document go to this site: <https://www.flagstaff.az.gov/DocumentCenter/View/84813/Flagstaff-Regional-Land-Use-Plan-60-Day-Public-Review-Draft>.

Chapter 1: Introduction | Page 1 of 18 | Type to search | Comment | Drag

Click anywhere in the document to add a comment. Select a bubble to view comments.

The cover page of the Flagstaff Regional Land Use Plan 2045. It features a vibrant, abstract background with swirling colors of pink, yellow, orange, red, and blue. The text "FLAGSTAFF REGIONAL LAND USE PLAN 2045" is prominently displayed in a large, serif font, with "2024 Public Review Draft" written below it in a smaller, sans-serif font. On the right side, there are two circular icons: a comment bubble and a close button.



Focus of the Plan – 5 Priorities

- Create more housing attainability in all the Region's neighborhoods and centers to mitigate displacement and reduce housing costs.
- Create mixed-use, denser neighborhoods that support a variety of housing types, and active transportation.
- Reduce community-generated climate pollution and protect air quality.
- Protect the Region's significant natural and cultural resources.
- Expand the Region's preparedness and resilience to hazards and climate change.



Regional Plan Chapters

1. Introduction
2. How the Plan Works

Policy Section

3. Goals and Policies (all topics)
4. Growth and Land Use Framework

Implementation Section

5. Social and Economic Systems
6. Transportation
7. Resource Stewardship and Resilience
8. Parks, Recreation and Open Space
9. Water Resource Management
10. Energy
11. Infrastructure and Public Safety



Policy Section

- Goals - desired results or future conditions that the community envisions and commits to achieve.
- Policies - courses of action to achieve the stated goals that guide decision making. Policies may be text or maps identified in the Plan.
- Land Use Categories – each parcel on the Future Growth Illustration is given a land use category. Each category has guidelines on what is appropriate in that area.



Implementation Section

- Implementation Guidelines - are assumptions and corresponding principles that guide how the goals and policies are interpreted and applied.
- Action Items - strategies, projects, procedures, actions, or programs that implement the goals and policies.



Maps



- Policy section
 - Policy Maps – Maps that define the geographic application of or set a policy such as future trail locations or future land uses.
- Implementation section
 - Information Maps – Maps that provide context and information to help understand goals, policies and the implementation section. These maps do not set policy and can be updated administratively.

R5E

R6E

R7E

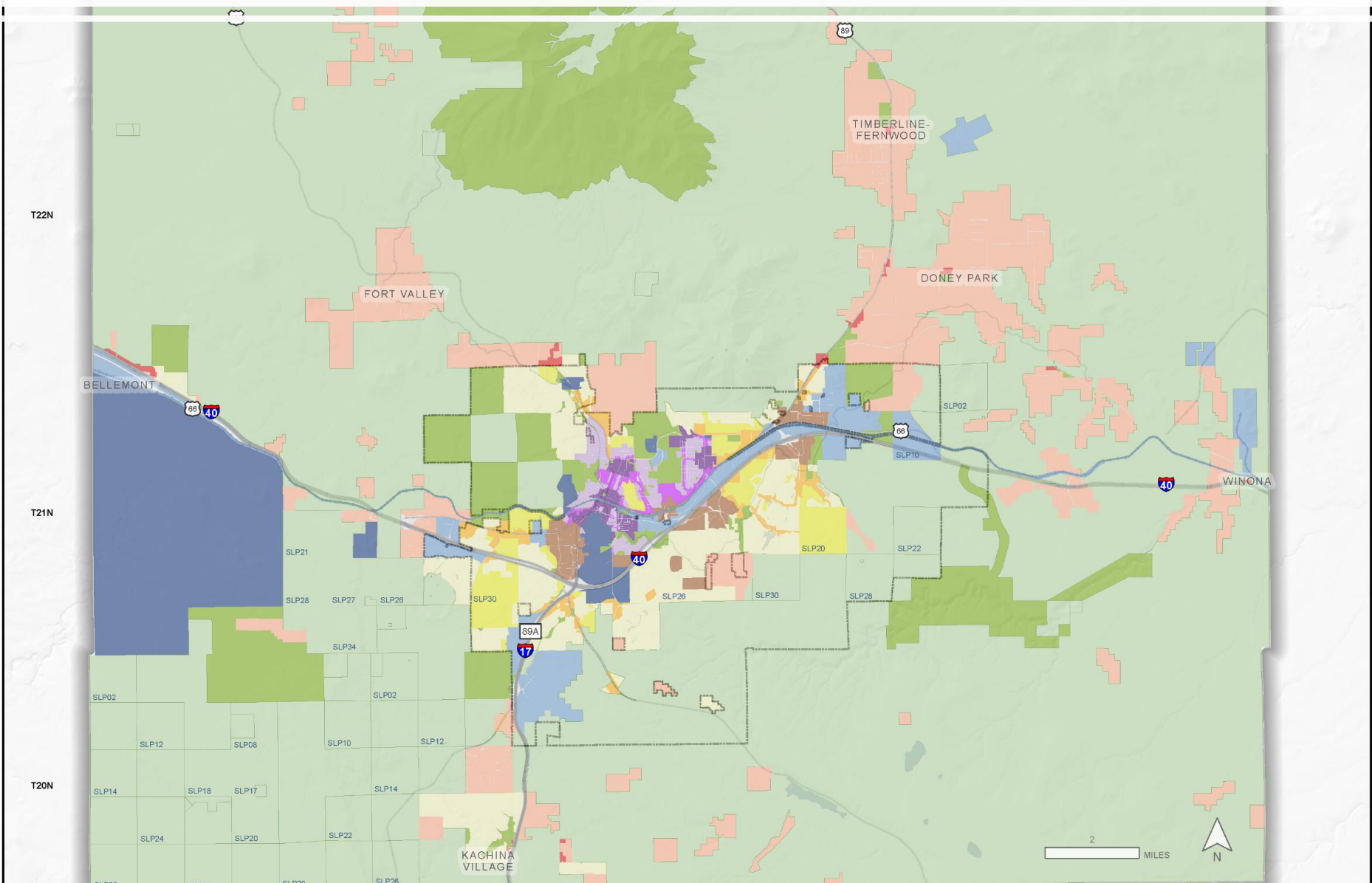
R8E

R9E

Future Growth Illustration

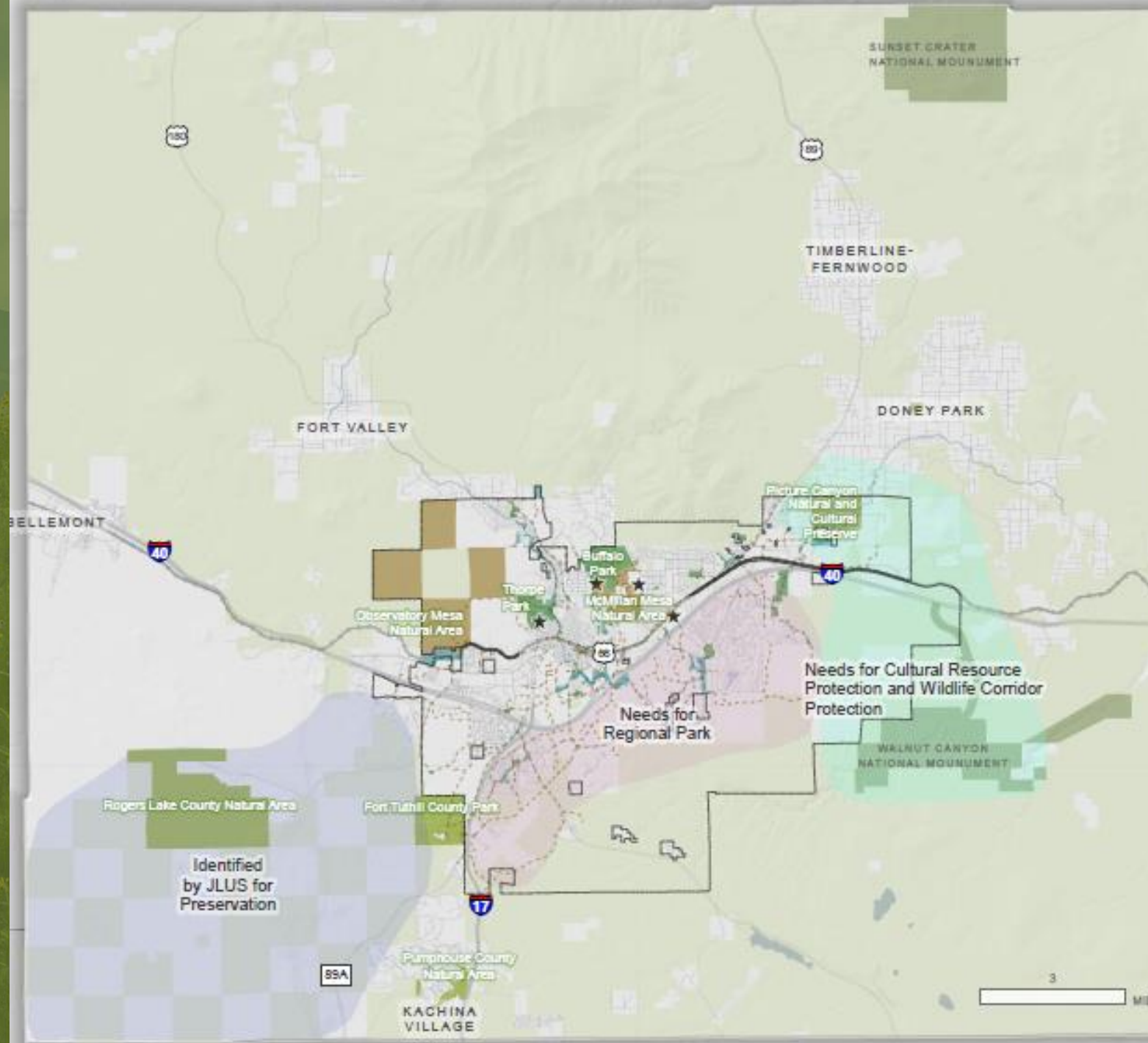
FUTURE GROWTH ILLUSTRATION

- Urban Center
- Suburban Center
- Rural Center
- Urban Corridor
- Suburban Corridor
- Employment District
- University/Research District
- Parks/Open Space
- Federal Lands and Working Landscapes
- Urban Neighborhood
- Suburban Neighborhood – High Density
- Suburban Neighborhood – Medium Density
- Rural Neighborhood
- CoF Boundary



Future Regional Parks and Open Space Needs

Neighborhood and urban park needs have criteria. Locations can be identified in the PROSE Master Plan.





Parks, Recreation and Open Space

- Goal PROS – The regional system of parks, open spaces, and community centers that supports the Region’s public and environmental health provides diverse recreational needs, is accessible to residents and visitors, and is interconnected by trails and greenways between Flagstaff, regional open space, and other County communities.
- Policy PROS.1: Incorporate and highlight the Region’s defining landscapes and vistas through landscape design in trails, parks, and open spaces.
- Policy PROS.2: Focus the purchase and management of regional preserves and connector open spaces on protecting cultural or significant natural resources, while allowing for concentrated development in areas that support housing supply and climate action.
- Policy PROS.3: Provide urban parks and complementary open spaces that support livable and sustainable compact development.



Parks, Recreation and Open Space

- Policy PROS.4: As greenfield sites are developed, ensure that new parks and open spaces have a balance of amenities, a flow with the natural and historical surroundings, are publicly accessible, and provide complementary amenities to existing public parks in the Region.
- Policy PROS.5: Plan and design regional parks that support larger public events sustainably and support diverse recreational opportunities within the same park.
- Policy PROS.6: Create and maintain opportunities for access to recreation and community centers through adaptive reuse of appropriate buildings, partnerships with non-profit organizations and neighborhoods, and new construction identified in master plans.



Implementation Guidelines

Topics

- Orientation of features and viewshed protection
- Coordination for conservation and preservation
- Public access, parking, events and trail hubs
- What kind of parks and open space we want to acquire
- Creating new parks and open spaces
- Use of existing master plans
- Increasing energy efficiency and adaptability of buildings
- Community Centers

High Priority Action Items

Item

Leverage available funding to negotiate for the purchase of greenfield lands for parks, open space, and trails in the JW Powell Boulevard extension area.

Consider pursuing a County and/or City bond or finance mechanism to fund park, recreation, and open space initiatives, operations, and maintenance.

Engage with the ASLD to create opportunities for future development and open space preservation, with a particular emphasis on the [JLUS](#) findings.



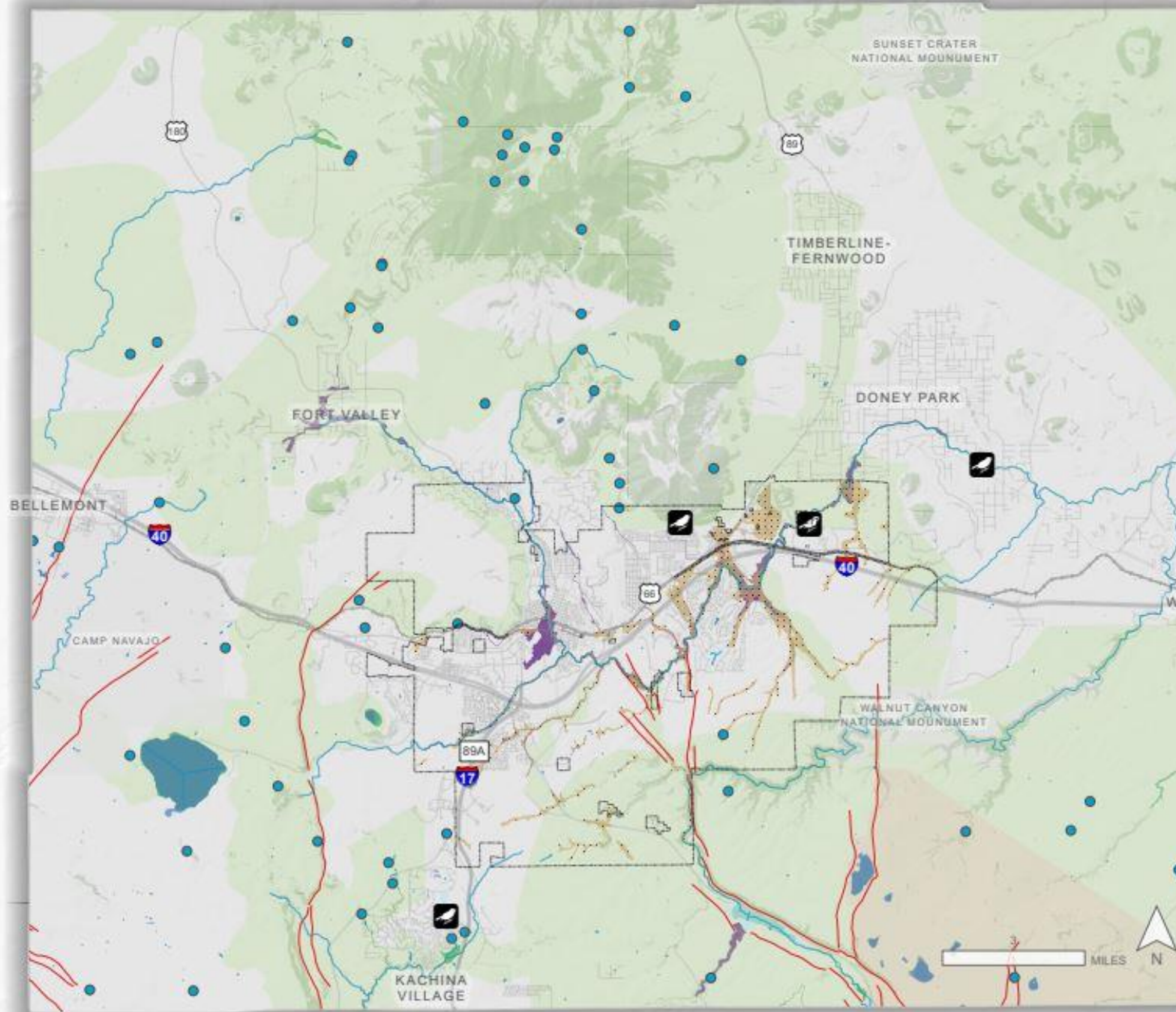
Integration in Other Chapters

Goal GM: Future development and reinvestment patterns in the Region integrate the community values of the importance of open space preservation, significant natural resources, the scarcity of water, the need to adapt to and avoid climate change, the Region's unique sense of place, and of meeting the needs of current and future residents and businesses.

Policy RS.8: Incorporate the protection, conservation, and restoration of significant natural resources (see Information Maps 7-2 and 7-3) in the development of regulations and property acquisition, particularly for sensitive and uncommon habitats, and landscapes that support the health and resilience of regional wildlife and plant populations, ecosystems, or Carbon Dioxide Removal (CDR).

Significant Natural Resources Map

Associated with a set of guidelines for protecting significant natural resources





Resource Guidelines

Mapped

- Geologic faults
- Audubon Bird Sanctuaries and other bird habitat areas
- Steep slopes and rocky outcroppings
- Riparian areas
- Wildlife corridors

Unmapped

- Gunnison's prairie dog colonies
- Large stands of Ponderosa Pines
- Rare plants

Ways to Participate

City of Flagstaff Contact

Sara Dechter, (928) 213-2631
sdechter@flagstaffaz.gov

Coconino County Contact

Melissa Shaw, (928) 679-8868
mshaw@coconino.az.gov

- Review the plan and send in comments
- Participate in collaborative review on Konveio
- Attend a Workshop or office hours
- Board or Commissions can form subcommittees and submit comments
- Individual member can also submit comments.



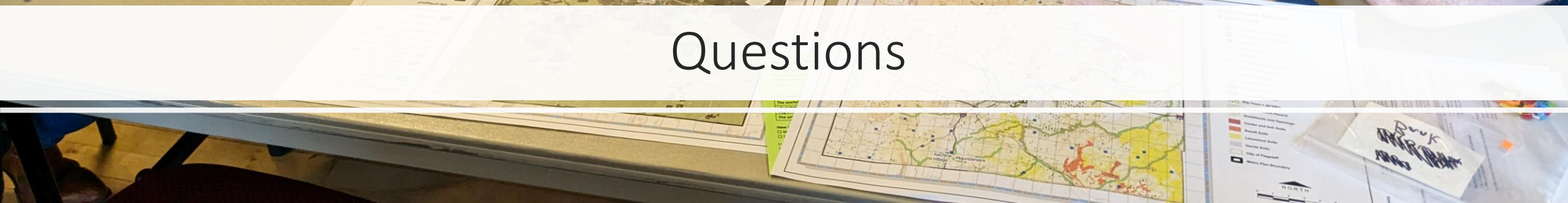


What Happens after the 60 day review?

1. Analyze and incorporate public comments and staff testing outcomes
2. Bring back complex issues to the Committee
3. Complete a final legal review
4. Send the document to the Board of Supervisors, City Council and Planning and Zoning Commissioners for a retreat in March
5. Conduct City public hearings
6. Ballot initiative
7. Conduct County public hearings



Questions





Open Spaces Commission

6. B.

Co-Submitter: Rebecca Sayers, Parks, Recreation, Open Space, and Events Director

From: Robert Wallace, Open Space Supervisor

DATE: 12/09/2024

SUBJECT: Project Prioritization and Multi-year Project Planning

STAFF RECOMMENDED ACTION:

- Informational and Discussion Item.

Executive Summary:

This agenda item will support the Open Space Commission's effort to review and identify priority maintenance projects, new amenities, and acquisitions to which BBB tax revenues could be allocated. This process may include determining a priority list to work towards (maintenance projects, property acquisition, rezones, easements, etc.), considering what tools might be best for each priority, and developing a final project list and cost estimates. The desired result of this work would be the production of something similar to a 5-10 capital improvement plan focusing on community open space priorities. During this meeting, commissioners will be asked to review the Project Priorities List and rank projects with the level of importance on a scale of 0 to 10, with 10 being the highest importance. Staff will review the feedback and develop a plan for the Commission's review.

Attachments

Project Priorities List

Open Space Project Descriptions for BBB Tax Allocation Consideration (Bed, Board and Beverage)

McMillan Mesa Property Restoration: Evaluate property to determine property restoration areas. Work could involve eradicating invasive plants in areas of high infestation, seeding, and completing erosion control in high-use areas.

McMillan Mesa Signage: Design and install signage throughout the preserve to match the newest design, including rules signage and other educational information. Open Space applied for a \$10,000 grant for this project, which, if awarded, could help fund some of it.

McMillan Mesa Trail Rehabilitation: This project will evaluate the McMillan Mesa trails and partner with Parks to complete the needed trail repairs and maintenance.

McMillan Mesa Tree Canopy Buffer: Restore property between the FUTS and the Veteran's home. This would address past impacts, restore vegetation, control erosion, and help create a vegetative buffer. Grant funding could possibly be obtained to supplement this project.

Observatory Mesa Fencing: Install wildlife-friendly fencing for the Observatory Mesa Natural Area to reduce unauthorized motorized vehicles, minimize cattle impacts, and inform users that they are entering a protected Natural Area with regulations enforced.

Observatory Mesa Property Restoration: Continue restoration work on forest thinning chip piles, which has been ongoing with grant funding. Grant funding will be spent by 12/2025.

Observatory Mesa Trail Plan Implementation: Implement the council-approved trail plan, which includes priorities 1-3 and long-term priorities. The plan would incorporate parking, signage, restroom facilities, unauthorized road and trail restoration, trail maintenance, and trail building. Grant funding could likely be obtained for this project.

Observatory Mesa Water Tank Restoration: Evaluate earthen water catchment basins to determine the benefits of restoration. Restore high-priority tanks to retain water for wildlife.

Picture Canyon Fencing: Install wildlife-friendly fencing for the Picture Canyon Preserve to reduce unauthorized motorized vehicles, prevent further mine encroachment, and inform users that they are entering a protected Natural Area with regulations enforced.

Picture Canyon FUTS Connection: Work with FUTS to design and build the FUTS connection to the Picture Canyon Trailhead. Property acquisition and rights are needed before implementation can occur. Grant funding could possibly supplement this project.

Picture Canyon Locus D Trail Spur and Viewing Area: Design and build a trail spur to the Locus D rock art panel to help manage current use and provide another opportunity to view rock art.

Picture Canyon Property Restoration: Continue restoration work on unauthorized roads and trails that have been ongoing with grant funding. Grant funding will be spent by 5/2025.

Expand work to restore vegetation in areas with high infestations of invasive species, such as along the Rio de Flag corridor.

Picture Canyon Rio De Flag Bridge Replacement: Replace the current wood bridge with a steel FUTS-style bridge.

Picture Canyon Signage Replacement: Upgrade the sun-damaged signage throughout the preserve to match the newest design, including rules signage and other educational information. Grant funding could possibly be obtained to supplement this project.

Picture Canyon Toilet: Develop a single restroom unit for the public at the Picture Canyon Trailhead.

Picture Canyon Trail Rehabilitation: This project will evaluate the Picture Canyon trails and complete the necessary trail repairs and maintenance.

Picture Canyon Trailhead Entry Road and Parking Lot: Repair/Replace the roadway and trailhead parking for Picture Canyon. The road from the Wildcat Water Reclamation Plant to the Picture Canyon Trailhead.

Schultz Creek Trailhead: Designing new trailhead improvements to enable proper parking, signage of the trail system, delineation of trail access to direct use to approved locations, and the addition of appropriate facilities such as trash service and restrooms. Property acquisition and rights are needed before implementation can occur. Grant funding could possibly be obtained to supplement this project.



Open Spaces Commission

7. D.

From: Annie Ridgell, PROSE Administrative Specialist

DATE: 12/09/2024

SUBJECT: PROSE Monthly Newsletter

- October 2024 Monthly Newsletter
- November 2024 Monthly Newsletter

STAFF RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Executive Summary:

Attachments

PROSE October 2024 Newsletter

PROSE November 2024 Monthly Newsletter



PARKS, RECREATION, OPEN SPACE, AND EVENTS

OCTOBER 2024 NEWSLETTER

*Connecting our community through people, parks,
natural areas, and programs.*



Community members tour the future park site

Neighborhood Park Public Meeting

A new neighborhood park is on the horizon! With help from Southwest Decision Resources and The WLB Group, we have been gathering input from the surrounding neighborhoods to help design the layout and suggest amenities that fit best in this park.

Public input has been gathered from the immediate neighborhoods through an online survey, virtual information session and this community meeting at the site. During this event, members of the public were invited to tour the site, learn about possibilities and limitations, and provide their ideas through interactive stations.

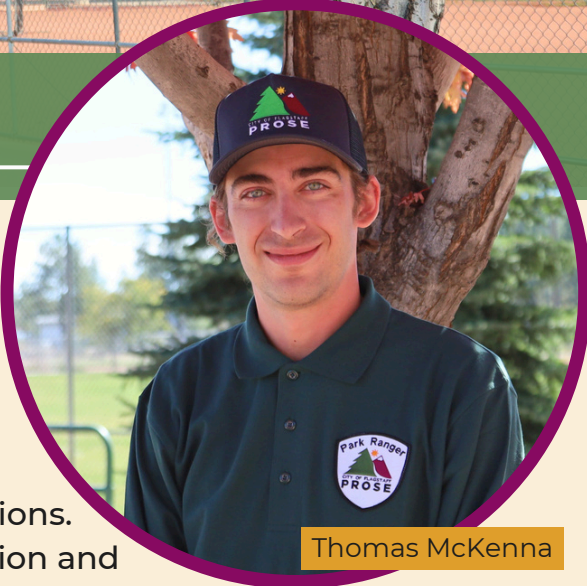


Father and son work on drawing their preferred park layout



The maple trees at Foxglenn Park

PARKS



Thomas McKenna

Welcome New Park Ranger, Thomas McKenna

Parks is excited to welcome Thomas McKenna to the Park Ranger position. Thomas brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the team.

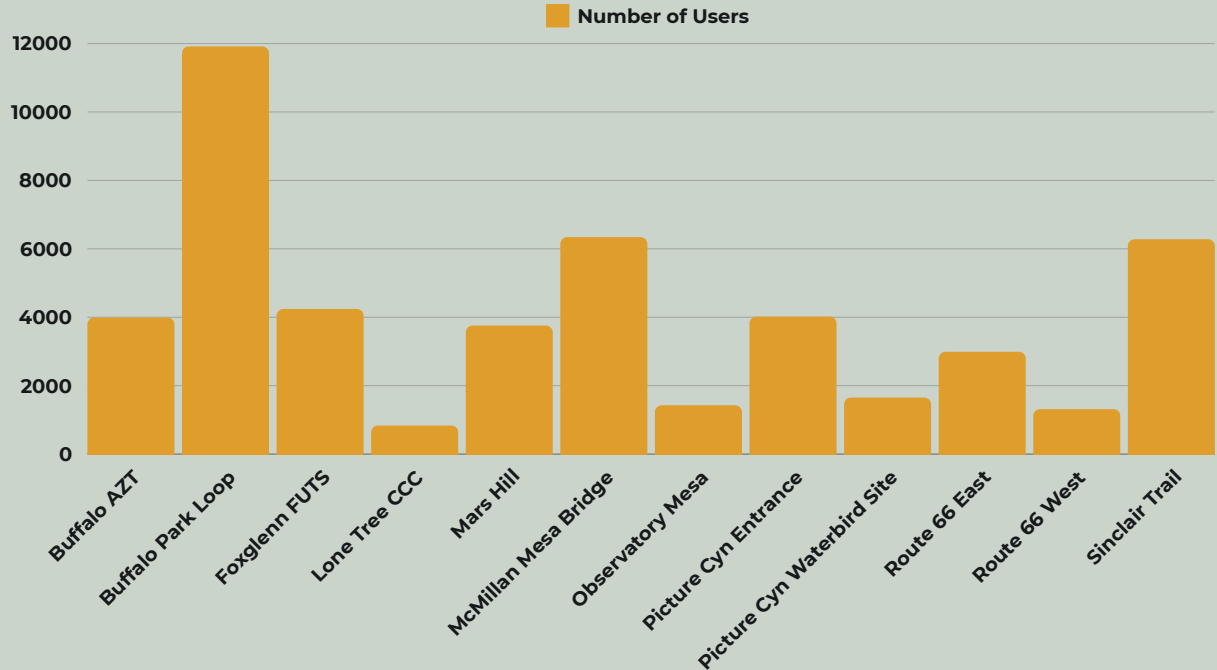
Winterization Underway

As fall turns to winter, the Parks team has been working diligently to prepare the parks' infrastructure for winter conditions. Some of these tasks include, evacuating water from the irrigation and drinking fountain lines utilizing compressed air and isolating the water connections. This is crucial to prevent freezing and cracking pipes which leads to future problems.

Farewell and Many Thanks to Paul McGuire & Andy Bunten

Two of Parks' long-time coworkers, Paul McGuire and Andy Bunten, retired this month. Andy worked for the City for fourteen years and Paul thirty-three. Many friends and coworkers gathered for a goodbye celebration. We are sincerely grateful for their contributions and wish them well in their retirement.

September 2024 Trail Counts





Pumpkins floating in the pool

RECREATION



Pumpkin Plunge event

Aquaplex Pumpkin Plunge Event

The Aquaplex hosted a new Halloween event this year called the Pumpkin Plunge with over two-hundred participants. The event offered the opportunity to swim in the pool amongst floating pumpkins and pick a favorite one to decorate or take home and carve. Both adults and kids enjoyed this unique twist on the pumpkin patch experience. Thank you to Viola's for discounting these pumpkins to make this an affordable event for the community.

Girl dressed as a scarecrow painting her pumpkin



Jay Lively Activity Center Spooky Skate Event

The Spooky Skate event at Jay Lively Activity Center was a total hit for the community. Kids, teens, and adults showed



up in costume to skate for free and have some fun. Staff set up a trick-or-treat house where kids could enter and receive bag of candy and the facility was well decorated with cobwebs, pumpkins, and all things spooky. Over two hundred people came out to skate and spectate.



The cake walk at the Halloween Carnival

RECREATION

Hal Jensen Halloween Carnival Event

The Hal Jensen Halloween Carnival was a major success seeing over one-hundred people through the event. Kids and parents enjoyed playing fun games to win candy, making crafts to take home, and trying their luck at the ever so popular cake walk. The costumes were very creative, spooky, and cute!



Girl dressed as a butterfly showing off her crafts



Kid in costume playing the ring-toss



Girl dressed as Wednesday with her 'ghost in a jar' craft and fully committed to the character



Jr Suns Basketball Clinic

Jr Suns Basketball Clinic

The Hal Jensen Recreation Center hosted a free youth basketball clinic with the Jr Suns program. Forty-six kids participated in the clinic. The kids learned some exercises to practice passing and dribbling skills and played some fun games to work on their shooting accuracy. At the end of the clinic, a basketball signed by Kevin Durant was raffled off.



Students learning how to measure water flow



Student getting a water sample

OPEN SPACE

Mount Elden Middle School Field Trip

Open Space hosted two hundred and forty seventh grade students from Mount Elden Middle School at Picture Canyon over the course of two days to learn about water. Students

rotated between stations where they learned how to measure water flow, test the water for chemicals, and took a short tour of the Wildcat Wastewater Treatment Plant. Many thanks to the partners that made this field trip possible: Sarah Jablon with City of Flagstaff Water Services, Cory Mueller and staff at the Wildcat Water Treatment Plant, and MEMS teachers and chaperones.



Students learning about the wastewater treatment process



Volunteers from Gore

Volunteers from W.L. Gore Help with Trail Work at Picture Canyon

A group of staff from W.L. Gore volunteered a day out of their work week to help restore several unauthorized trails at Picture Canyon. Restoring unauthorized trails is imperative to preserving the area's natural state. New unauthorized trails appear frequently, but with the help of volunteers, Open Space is able to stay on top of this important task. In addition, this work helps fulfill the in-kind match to our AZ State Parks RTP (Recreational Trails Program) grant.



Unauthorized trail before



Unauthorized trail after



EVENTS, MARKETING & ATHLETICS

Fall Colors!

Fall is a great time for photos. The Events and Marketing Coordinator has been circulating the parks to capture some of this beauty for the website and future marketing purposes.

Indoor Volleyball is in Session!

Fall 2024 Volleyball is back in action! Our Athletics Coordinator has been working diligently to schedule the thirty-four teams to play throughout the week at various high schools and middle schools.



Winter Wonderland and Tree Lighting

The Winter Wonderland and Tree Lighting event is just around the corner! Join us downtown on Saturday, December 7th for this free, family-friendly event! There will be hot cocoa, s'mores, crafts, live music and more! The tree lighting will take place at

6:15pm. Be sure to stick around and take a photo with Santa!



FREE!

DOWNTOWN FLAGSTAFF FOUNDATION AND CITY OF FLAGSTAFF PARKS, RECREATION, OPEN SPACE, AND EVENTS PRESENTS

WINTER WONDERLAND AND TREE LIGHTING

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7
STARTING AT 2:30PM
HERITAGE SQUARE

LIVE MUSIC * HOT COCOA
SANTA * S'MORES * CRAFTS

FLC: FLAGSTAFF LOCAL COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
PROSE: COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP FOR OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION



PARKS, RECREATION, OPEN SPACE, AND EVENTS

NOVEMBER 2024 NEWSLETTER

*Connecting our community through people, parks,
natural areas, and programs.*



Youth at Skills and Drills

Hal Jensen Recreation Center Youth Basketball Skills and Drills Event

Hal Jensen Recreation Center staff coordinated another successful Skills and Drills event at the Aquaplex for the Youth Basketball program. Players and coaches from the Northern Arizona University basketball team volunteered to help facilitate the event. The youth that participated in the event demonstrated their skills through a variety of drills in order for the coaches to evaluate their ability and be put into teams for the season. One hundred and fifty kids from three age categories participated in the event. Games and practice will begin the second week of December.



Dribbling practice



The NAU Basketball Team spreading their enthusiasm for the sport



Continental Park playground



The new playground structure at Continental Park

PARKS

New Playground Structure at Continental Park

Parks installed a new playground structure at the Continental Park. The new structure is designed for children ages two to five. It is located with a view of the three main fields so families can enjoy the new amenity while watching youth sports.

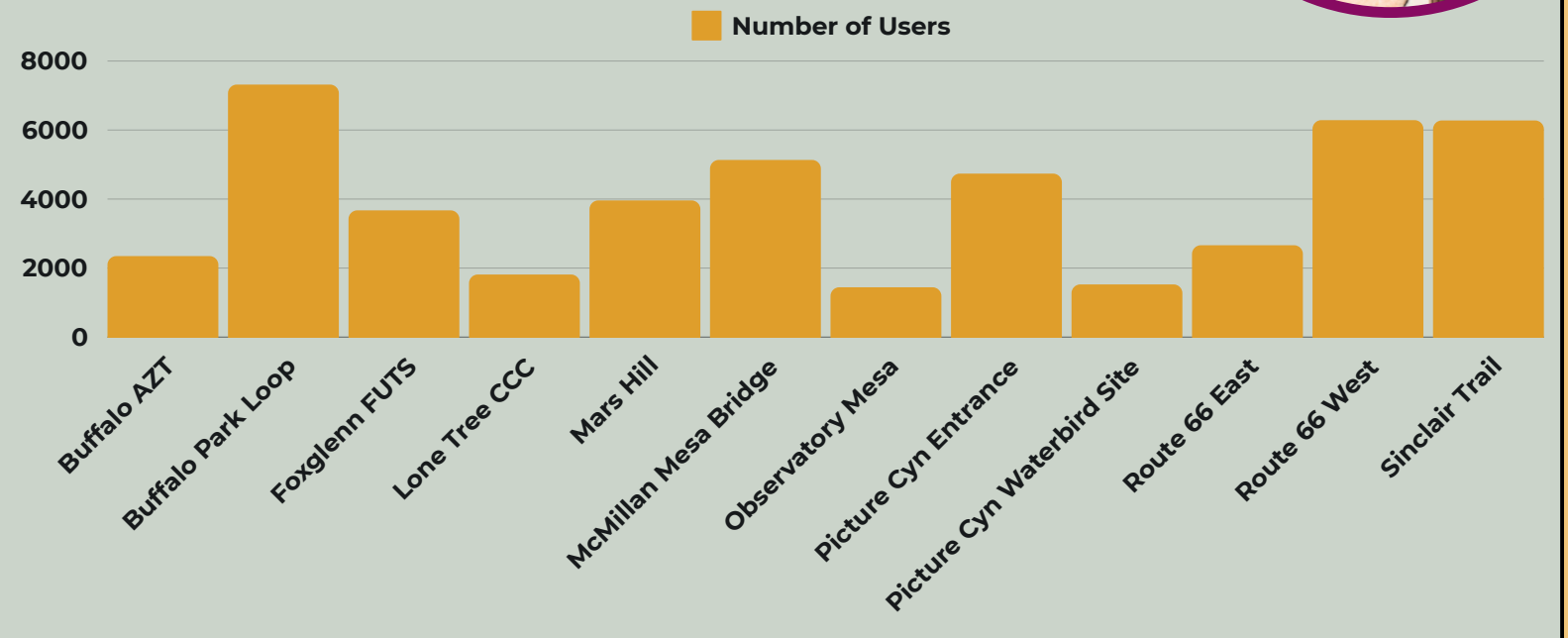
New Drinking Fountains with Water Bottle Fill Stations

A total of ten new drinking fountains with water bottle fill stations have been installed throughout our athletic and park spaces. Parks staff have been hard at work to replace the old and outdated fountains. The fountains are currently turned off for the winter but will be up and running in the spring.



New drinking fountain

October 2024 Trail Counts





OPEN SPACE

Leupp Elementary School STEAM Fair

Open Space participated in the Leupp Elementary STEAM Fair where they hosted a booth to engage with students about the importance of Open Space and natural areas. They offered an activity for students to mix water, soil, clay, and native seeds to make a seed ball that could be tossed in their yard to spread native grasses.



Booth at Leupp
STEAM Fair



New
restoration
signage at
Picture
Canyon

Picture Canyon Improvements

Progress on the Arizona State Park grant at Picture Canyon has continued this month. Improvements include:

- naturalization of unauthorized trails
- installation of new signage to inform hikers of restoration areas
- installation of new signage to keep hikers out of culturally significant areas.



New Signage at
Picture Canyon

Summit for Arizona Trails

Open Space staff attended the Summit for Arizona Trails in Cottonwood, Arizona where they learned about trail planning and management.



Group photo of the Summit



EVENTS, MARKETING & ATHLETICS

Aquaplex Winter

Break Kids Day Camp

The Aquaplex is offering a Winter Break Kids Day Camp that will run for two weeks with some breaks for holidays. This is an affordable opportunity for childcare around the holidays and will be full of movement, crafts, and fun.

Flagstaff Aquaplex

WINTER BREAK

KIDS DAY CAMP

DECEMBER 23 - JANUARY 03

Ages 5 - 11

Swim | Climb | Crafts | Games

Member Price: \$25/ day

Non-Member Price: \$35/ day

Monday 12/23	Tuesday 12/24	Wednesday 12/25	Thursday 12/26	Friday 12/27
Full-Day 7:30am-6:00pm	Early Pick-Up 7:30am-3:30pm	NO CAMP (Holiday)	Late Drop-Off 10:30am-6:00pm	Full-Day 7:30am-6:00pm
Monday 12/30	Tuesday 12/31	Wednesday 01/01	Thursday 01/02	Friday 01/03
Full-Day 7:30am-6:00pm	Early Pick-Up 7:30am-3:30pm	NO CAMP (Holiday)	Late Drop-Off 10:30am-6:00pm	Full-Day 7:30am-6:00pm

CITY OF FLAGSTAFF PROSE

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE AND SIGN UP](#)

(928) 213-2300

CITY OF FLAGSTAFF - RECREATION

1ST SESSION ADULT BASKETBALL

MENS, WOMENS, ALL-GENDER 5V5 TEAMS

REGISTRATION OPEN

Registration: \$325/ team

Register online on Webtrac

12/02/24 - 1/30/25

CITY OF FLAGSTAFF PROSE
PARKS, RECREATION, OPEN SPACE & EVENTS

For more information email Jackson.Hodsen@flagstaffaz.gov

Adult Basketball

First Session Adult Basketball opened for registration and teams are already full! With close to one hundred people signed up, we expect a great season. Games will begin the first week of December.

We hope to see you on Saturday, December 7th!

DOWNTOWN FLAGSTAFF FOUNDATION AND CITY OF FLAGSTAFF PARKS, RECREATION, OPEN SPACE, AND EVENTS PRESENTS

WINTER WONDERLAND AND TREE LIGHTING

FREE!

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7

STARTING AT 2:30PM

HERITAGE SQUARE

LIVE MUSIC * HOT COCOA
SANTA * S'MORES * CRAFTS

aps
COCONINO COUNTY ARIZONA

