

Open Space Commission Update



February 26, 2024

Discussion Topics



Topics

- Commission's Authority
- History
- Recent Accomplishments
- Current Projects
- Future Projects
- Partner Opportunities





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



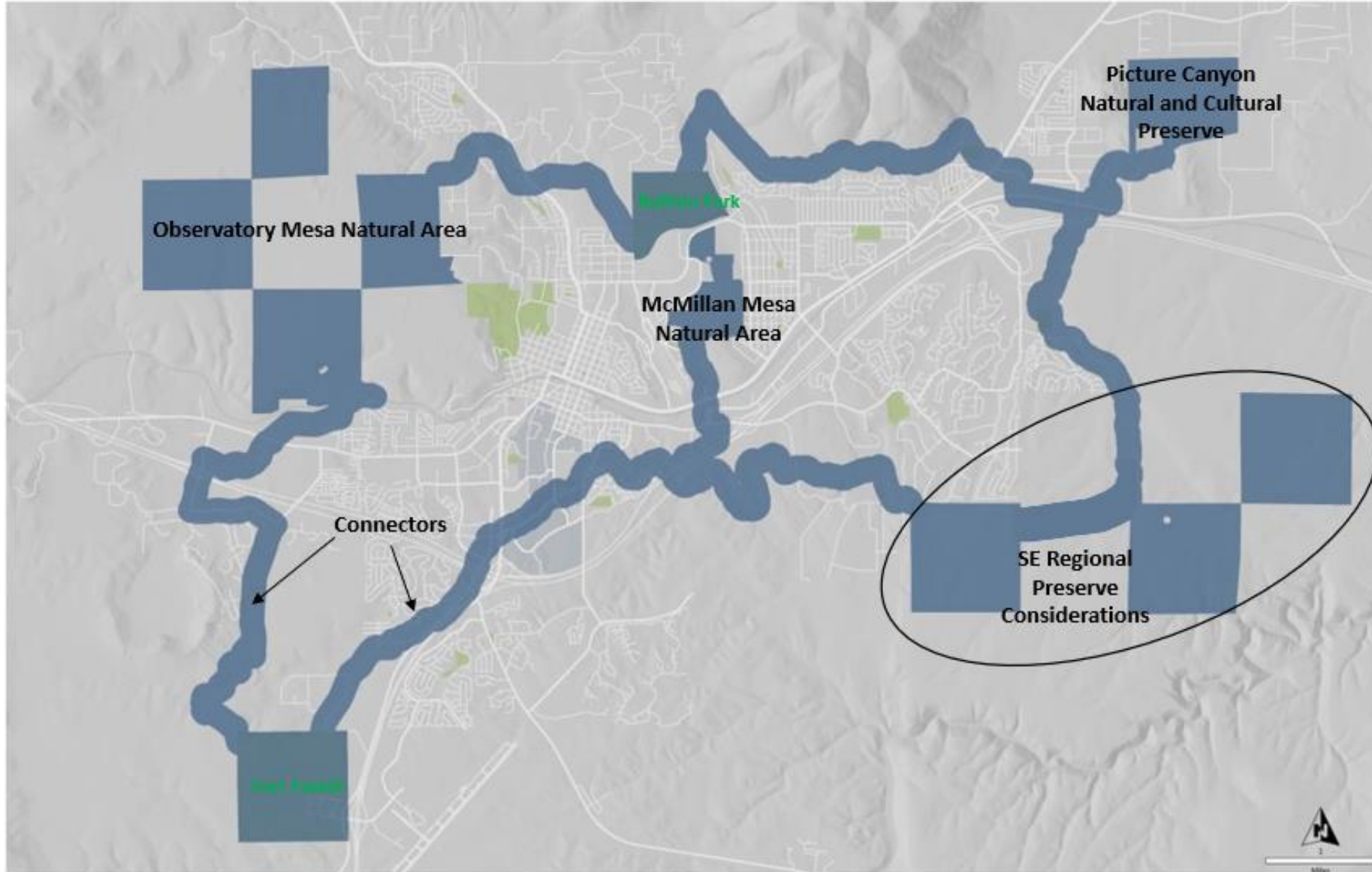


Existing OS Regional Preserves





Connectors & Regional Preserves





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

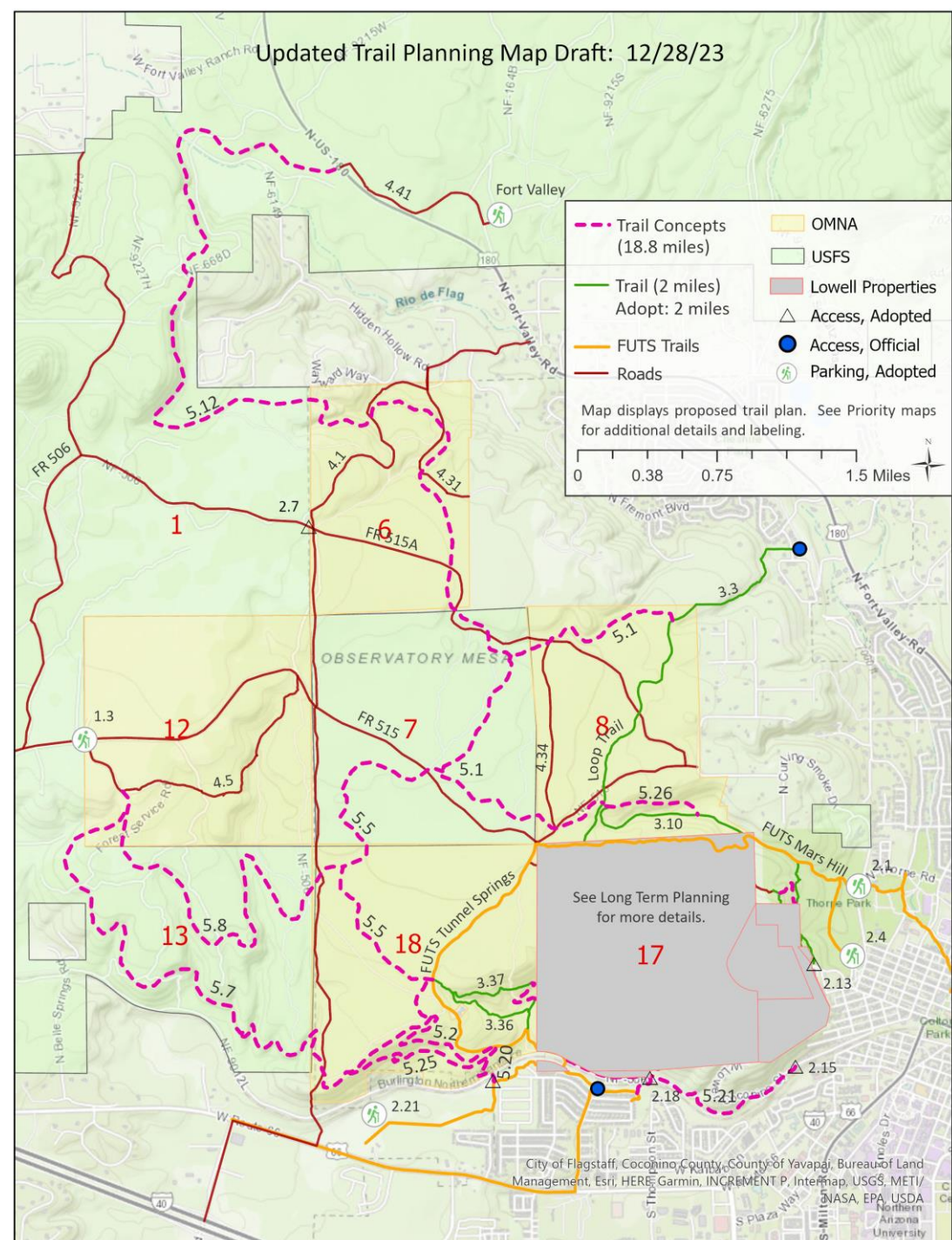
Current Focus

- 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



Observatory Mesa Trail Plan

- Adaptive mountain biking
- ADA access





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





Partner Opportunities



Working Together

- Identification of priority project overlap
- Sustainable funding
- Community communication



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?