



2011 GENERAL PLAN COMMITTEE

Community Development Department

Agenda

**2011 General Plan Committee
Regular Meeting
Wednesday, June 13, 2012
4:00 PM to 6:00 PM**

**Downstairs Conference Room, City Hall
201 S. Cortez Street
Prescott, Arizona
928-777-1207**

The following agenda will be considered by the Prescott General Plan Committee at its regular meeting on Wednesday, June 13, 2012 in the downstairs conference room, City Hall, 201 S. Cortez Street, Prescott, AZ. Notice of this meeting is given pursuant to *Arizona Revised Statutes*, Section 38-431.02.

I. Call to Order

II. Attendance

MEMBERS	
Miriam Haubrich, Co-Chair	Elisabeth Ruffner
Terry Marshall, Co-Chair	George Sheats
Brad Devries	Gary Worob
Dave Fisher	
Glenn Gooding	<i>EX OFFICIO</i>
Zena Mitchell	Steve Blair, Councilman
Roxane Nielsen	Chris Kuknyo, Councilman
David Quinn	

III. Announcements

IV. Regular Items

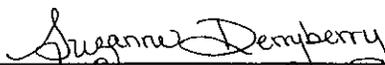
1. Consider approval of the minutes of the May 9, 2012 meeting.
Minutes of the May 23, 2012 meeting will be deferred to the next meeting.
2. Status of the 2003 Open Space Element Goals.
3. Discussion of updates to the Open Space Element.
4. Call to the public.

V. Adjournment

THE CITY OF PRESCOTT ENDEAVORS TO MAKE ALL PUBLIC MEETINGS ACCESSIBLE TO PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES. WITH 48 HOURS ADVANCE NOTICE, SPECIAL ASSISTANCE CAN BE PROVIDED FOR SIGHT AND/OR HEARING IMPAIRED PERSONS AT PUBLIC MEETINGS. PLEASE CALL 777-1272 OR 777-1100 (TDD) TO REQUEST AN ACCOMMODATION TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS MEETING.

CERTIFICATION OF POSTING OF NOTICE

The undersigned hereby certifies that a copy of the foregoing notice was duly posted at Prescott City Hall and on the City's website on June 8, 2012 at 12:00 PM in accordance with the statement filed with the City Clerk's Office.


Suzanne Derryberry, Administrative Specialist



**2011 GENERAL PLAN COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
May 9, 2012
PRESCOTT, ARIZONA**

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE 2011 GENERAL PLAN COMMITTEE HELD ON May 9, 2012 AT 4:00 PM IN THE DOWNSTAIRS CONFERENCE ROOM, CITY HALL, 201 S. CORTEZ STREET, PRESCOTT ARIZONA. Notice of this meeting was given pursuant to Arizona Revised Statutes, Section 38-431.02.

I. Call to Order

Co-chairman Haubrich called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m.

II. Attendance

MEMBERS PRESENT	EX OFFICIO MEMBERS
Miriam Haubrich, Co-Chair	Chris Kuknyo, Councilman
Elisabeth Ruffner	Steve Blair, Councilman
Brad Devries	
Zena Mitchell	STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT
Gary Worob	Ryan Smith, Community Planner & Committee Liaison
Roxane Nielsen	Suzanne Derryberry, Administrative Specialist
George Sheats	George Worley, Planning Manager
David Quinn	
MEMBERS ABSENT	
Terry Marshall, Co-Chair	
Glenn Gooding	
Dave Fisher	

III. Announcements

Ms. Ruffner stated that the State Historic Preservation Officer would be giving a PowerPoint presentation regarding historic architects on Friday morning at 8:00 a.m. in the Council Chambers.

Mr. Worob discussed the Peevine Trail and added that one of our largest income sources and economic development sources for the city is recreation. Ms. Ruffner stated that city trails in the connection with County trails should be included in the circulation section.

IV. Regular Items

1. Consider approval of the minutes of the April 11, 2012 and April 25, 2012 meetings.
Approval of minutes will be deferred to the following meeting.
2. Transit presentation given by David Quinn.

Mr. Quinn provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding the different elements of transit; he noted that our region does require a moderately sized public transit service.

He continued to discuss at length the different aspects and possibilities of having a transit system in place for our region. Mr. Quinn concluded that public transit requires a public subsidy; every form of transportation requires a public subsidy. History has shown that if transit is profitable then private carriers would enter the market but in fact they have not. Even city bus services that operate in the city of Prescott are heavily subsidized by its owner with shuttle revenues.

Mr. Smith discussed the results from the online survey in regards to the questions pertaining to transit. Mr. Mattson expressed his desire for the need of a transit system. Ms. Ruffner requested that Mr. Quinn provide the committee with a section which would entail more than one goal and two strategies regarding public transit. Mr. Quinn stated that they should look at the language and see what could be developed. He added that he was not in a position to actually write the element and that it's a committee activity. Mr. Blair wanted to know the difference between the previous Circulation Element and the current one. Mr. Smith stated he would prefer to discuss that once they are actually in discussion on that specific element.

3. Discussion of goals and strategies from the 2003 General Plan.

Mr. Smith stated that the Public Works Department went through each of the goals and strategies; therefore, a lot of the comments were provided by that department.

Mr. Quinn discussed Strategy 1.4; the staff comments suggested that there had been an active pursuit of signal timing improvements and synchronizing of lights; he added that he was unable to tell that those improvements were in place. Mr. Smith stated that those issues are looked at by the engineering department and that there were certain reasons why some lights cannot be synchronized. Mr. Kuknyo added that there is signal timing in place and it usually helps the flow of traffic.

Mr. Quinn discussed Section 7.5.2.1; Strategy 1.3. He noted that the staff comments state that the Police Department provides a bicycle safety education program for students and therefore, that strategy should be deleted because its purview is outside of the General Plan. He suggested that bicycle safety is not an issue limited to the student population and that the fact that the Police Department is doing something in that area doesn't mean that more cannot be done. Mr. Smith stated that the real question is who should be educating bicyclists and motorists on what the laws are in Arizona. Mr. Smith stated that the answer should be ADOT, which is why that strategy should be deleted from the General Plan. Various members of the committee continued to discuss bicycle education.

Mr. Devries discussed Strategy 1.10 and noted that the staff comment talked about promoting interconnectivity of transportation networks. He wanted to know if there were other projects planned or other things the committee would want to think about in regards to that strategy. Mr. Smith stated that would be a question for Public Works. Mr. Blair discussed Senator Highway and bike lanes.

4. Discussion of updates to the Circulation Element.

Mr. Smith stated that the Circulation Element is a mandated element by Growing Smarter Legislation and must be included in the General Plan. He noted that he received a lot of help on the element from the Engineering Department.

Mr. Smith continued by briefly discussing the different elements of the sections. He would like to insert information about ADOT rules and regulations regarding cars vs. bikes. When he brings the Circulation Element back at the end of the year for the committee to review the plan as a whole, he may include some information on what the Arizona Revised Statutes say about bicycles and cars comingling.

Mr. Blair was concerned neighborhood plans that include traffic calming techniques to enhance street safety while maintaining connectivity; Mr. Blair wanted to know the specific neighborhood plans and stated that he didn't think the paragraph was appropriate. The committee discussed traffic calming and neighborhood plans. Mr. Quinn suggested excluding the discussion of neighborhood plans from the statement. Mr. Smith stated that in the back of the 2003 plan is a directory of references, all of the highlighted items are neighborhood plans.

Mr. Smith discussed transportation modes and limits and thought that was a good section to discuss commuter trails. He would like to address on-street transportation in the circulation element and off-street transportation in the open space element.

Mr. Smith discussed traffic impacts, traffic safety and traffic management issues. The section refers to the 2006 Central Yavapai CYMPO Regional Transportation Study which is currently being updated. The biggest part of the update is to the population figures; they are roughly half of what they were in the 2006 plan. Mr. Smith discussed what the section entailed. Ms. Ruffner discussed population and road improvements. Dava Hoffman discussed section 7.2; Transportation Modes and Limits and Ms. Nielsen added that she felt the paragraph was too long; she suggested a break in the paragraph. Mr. Smith noted the change.

Ms. Hoffman discussed the section on traffic impact and stated that the chart projections should be removed from the plan. Mr. Kuknyo wanted to know how you would plan if you don't have projections to reference. Ms. Hoffman stated that such planning is too detailed and it should not belong in the General Plan. Mr. Blair suggested stating that the tables would be available in the CYMPO traffic plan. Mr. Smith added that the plan is already referenced enough and asked if the committee would prefer that he just eliminate it from the plan; the committee appeared to agree.

Mr. Smith continued with Section 7.4; Transportation Planning. Mr. Quinn suggested a modification of the information included in the section. Mr. Smith noted the changes.

Mr. Smith stated that Section 7.5 described the different road types. Ms. Hoffman offered the suggestion of adding the information to the appendix that way the General Plan can focus on more important things. Ms. Neilson added that most of that information was already discussed in other sections. Mr. Smith noted the suggested changes and moved on to discuss the strategies. Mr. Quinn discussed Strategy 1.5 and stated that the arterial standards should be updated. Mr. Smith added that the standards for arterials and collectors are all federal standards through ASHTO.

Mr. Kuknyo discussed public parking and where issues pertaining to that subject would be discussed. Mr. Smith stated that it is addressed in the Land Development Code.

Ms. Hoffman commented on Strategy 1.7 and stated that collectors and arterials could be combined into one section. Mr. Smith asked if anyone objected to him deleting both Strategies 1.6 and 1.7.; there were no objections.

5. Call to the Public.

Mr. Mattson stated that he was happy that a lot was eliminated from the plan. He also discussed turn-outs and handicap accessibility areas.

V. Adjournment

Co-chairman Haubrich adjourned the meeting at 6:01 p.m.

Terry Marshall
Co-Chairman

Miriam Haubrich
Co-Chairman


Suzanne Derryberry
Administrative Specialist

DRAFT



Item #2

2011 General Plan Committee Community Development

Date: Wednesday, June 13, 2012

To: Councilman Steve Blair, Brad Devries, Dave Fisher, Glenn Gooding, Miriam Haubrich, Councilman Chris Kuknyo, Terry Marshall, Zena Mitchell, Roxanne Nielsen, David Quinn, Elisabeth Ruffner, George Sheats and Gary Worob

From: Tom Guice, Community Development Director
George Worley, Planning Manager *GW*
Ryan Smith, Community Planner *RS*

Staff Memo Status of 2003 Open Space Element Goals

PURPOSE:

The Committee has requested staff to provide a brief evaluation and available data regarding the goals and strategies from the 2003 General Plan. The data is provided to assist the Committee in its task to update the goals of the General Plan Open Space Element.

8.0 OPEN SPACE ELEMENT

8.4.1 Parks and Recreation Goals and Strategies

Goal 1. Improve the distribution of parks and recreation opportunities throughout the community.

Strategy 1.1 Target appropriate available lands for acquisition, based upon an inventory of parks, open space and recreation facilities.

Staff Comment:: The Mayor's Open Space Advisory Committee selected various desired lands based on criteria developed. These were primarily for passive recreation – natural parklands use.

Strategy 1.2 Establish plans and timelines for the development of these areas as appropriate through budget and capital improvement processes.

Staff Comment: The five-year capital improvement plan addresses needs within the parks and trail system that includes some new development.

Goal 2. Maximize parks and open space use potential through coordinated and cooperative efforts with surrounding jurisdictions.

Strategy 2.1 Continue and expand cooperative programs with the U.S. Forest Service, including trail connectivity and maintenance standards.

Staff Comment: The cooperation and coordination between City of Prescott and Prescott National Forest is ideal. We continue to work together towards a common goal of completing the 50-mile Prescott Circle Trail. Prescott National Forest's Sustainable Recreation Planning Process has created more regional cooperation.

Strategy 2.2 Improve coordination with Yavapai County to appropriately develop county owned lands to serve the parks and recreation needs of Prescott as well as the region.

Staff Comment: This cooperation has been strained as the development of Pioneer Park was not implemented as per the IGA. Development of a new IGA in progress may allow better coordination between entities.

Strategy 2.3 Continue coordination with the towns of Prescott Valley and Chino Valley to plan cross-jurisdictional open space and recreation opportunities.

Staff Comment: The coordination and communication has been limited, but continually sees progress.

8.5.1 Trails and Greenways Goals and Strategies

Goal 1. Expand and improve the connectivity of the trails and greenway system.

Strategy 1.1 Encourage creative land acquisition policies and produce information for broad dissemination regarding state laws on landowner protection from liabilities, fee simple purchases, land donations and easement acquisitions.

Staff Comment: Phases 1 & 2 of Prescott's Greenways were very successful projects working with private property owners. Phases 3 & 4 will require a similar effort with expansion of various tools for private property rights-of-way.

Strategy 1.2 Promote the creation of open spaces, parks and trails in flood plains and other areas where development is prohibited or difficult.

Staff Comment: The Prescott's Greenways project success is a good example of utilizing flood plains for public purposes.

Goal 2. Encourage greater public participation in the planning, development and maintenance of trails and greenways.

Strategy 2.1 Develop a community volunteer creek monitoring program expanding and supporting the Creek Watch Project of the Prescott Creeks Preservation Association.

Staff Comment: Prescott Creeks made some progress with this program.

Strategy 2.2 Prepare a brochure for residents and developers to emphasize the importance of trails and greenways and detailing how they contribute to the value of developed land and the health of the community.

Staff Comment: Phases 1 & 2 of Prescott's Greenways involved providing much of above information to over 40 property owners along the creeks in downtown Prescott.

Strategy 2.3 Enhance public education about trails and greenways through broad dissemination of informational materials

Staff Comment: Phases 1 & 2 of Prescott's Greenways involved providing much of above information in various features within the Prescott Daily Courier.

8.6.1 Open Space Policy Goals and Strategies

Goal 1. Acquire four distinct types of open spaces through fee simple acquisition, purchase of development rights or easements, acceptance of voluntary dedications and negotiation of intergovernmental agreements:

- developed parks for active recreation
- trails and contiguous open spaces along creeks or in other areas to connect trails or open spaces within the city and to like areas beyond the corporate limits
- passive natural open spaces to conserve wildlife and view corridors, or protect cultural resources such as sensitive historic/archaeological sites
- open space in Planned Area Developments

Strategy 1.1 Rezone the property to an open space designation for all parcels of land acquired by the City for open space protection or conservation.

Staff Comment: Some parcels have been annexed and rezoned to NOS designation. Many parcels remain outside of City incorporated boundaries. Open Space purchased by public monies is protected by the language authorizing the tax or other funding source. Often, land purchased for open space is protected by deed restrictions. These methods are widely used and will limit the use of property to open space related activities.

Strategy 1.2 Initiate a charter amendment immediately following ratification of this General Plan to protect in perpetuity city owned open space as it is acquired through development, purchase or agreements.

Staff Comment: A charter amendment was not initiated. Open Space is protected by a number of means - Open space within a subdivision is protected by the subdivision final plat. Also see the response for 1.1. (this strategy should be deleted as it is not necessary to protect open space)

Goal 2. Identify remaining open spaces of significance in the Prescott area.

Strategy 2.1 Prioritize open space parcels of significance for City acquisition. Periodically review and update this list.

Staff Comment: The Mayor's Open Space Advisory Committee previously accomplished this task, but has disbanded. The Granite Dells Preservation Foundation may still be performing this task. This is an ongoing process. Acquisition of specific parcels for open space is dependent upon the availability of the parcel, purchase price and other factors. Open space land purchases are not made unilaterally by the City. Dedicated funding for open space acquisition will sunset at the end of 2015.

Strategy 2.2 Continue, where appropriate, to evaluate existing parcels of public or private open space to determine the most appropriate mechanism for conservation.

Staff Comment: The Mayor's Open Space Advisory Committee was previously accomplishing this task. Granite Dells Preservation Foundation may still be accomplishing.

Strategy 2.3 Initiate a collaborative venture between the private, public, and non-profit sectors for stewardship.

Staff Comment: Some discussion is occurring for stewardship partnerships in the Granite Dells region. Granite Dells Preservation Foundation may be including in their planning. Much stewardship within open space is being accomplished by Parks and Recreation, and is occurring due to significant trail construction, maintenance, and patrols with staff and various volunteers within the Dept.

Strategy 2.4 Promote proactive annexation of areas outside the city which have been identified as having significant open space value.

Staff Comment: The Granite Dells Preservation Foundation may include this activity in their charter. Annexations are generally initiated by the land owner. In some cases the City will purchase Open Space and then initiate the annexation process such as for Watson Lake. Willow Lake and other Granite Dells area properties will likely be annexed in the coming years.

Goal 3. Achieve a community and region-wide balance between development and open space conservation.

Strategy 3.1 Continue long-range comprehensive planning which includes open space as a vital component by the city in cooperation with the transportation planning activity of the Central Yavapai Metropolitan Planning Organization.

Staff Comment: The Open Space Master Plan was updated in 2008 and can be found at: http://www.cityofprescott.net/d/open_space_plan_2008.pdf. CYMPO is charged with Transportation Planning and regional connectivity. Open Space planning within the City is therefore not within CYMPO's charter unless a regional facility is constructed where connectivity is an issue. (this strategy should be deleted as it is beyond the purview of the General Plan)

Strategy 3.2 Continue long-range regional cooperation in open space acquisition and stewardship.

Staff Comment: Area jurisdictions are aware of activities and strive to create connectivity where appropriate. However, no specific regional open space projects have presented themselves.

areas as open space in some cases. (this strategy is partially addressed by the LDC)

- Goal 5.** Confer with Prescott National Forest, Bureau of Land Management, Yavapai County, other jurisdictions including towns and school districts, Prescott Area Coalition for Tourism, and the Open Space Alliance of Central Yavapai County to effect protection and stewardship planning for viewsheds, wildlife habitat, cultural resources and riparian areas, and to promote the integration of regional systems involving open space and recreation.

Staff Comment: This goal is already being accomplished through the Regional Sustainable Recreation Strategy effort being implemented by Prescott National Forest.

- Strategy 5.1** Plan relevant stewardship functions to protect open space and to promote recreational opportunities.

Staff Comment: Not aware of progress except for the Parks and Recreation Department's efforts to expand the Mile-High Trail System into many City-owned open space and lakes parcels.

- Strategy 5.2** Create memoranda of understanding with public and private entities and review agreements on an established periodic schedule.

Staff Comment: No progress has been made.

- Goal 6.** Create a City Council appointed advisory committee on open space acquisition and stewardship to exist for the term of the sales tax extension.

- Strategy 6.1** Develop and adopt criteria for size and composition, and policies and procedures for use by the committee.

Staff Comment: The Mayor's Open Space Advisory Committee was formed and disbanded.

- Strategy 6.2** Create a timeline for reporting procedures, staffing and measurement of the city's progress in achieving the goals of the open space acquisition and management policies.

Staff Comment: The City does not have a staff member dedicated to open space administrative tasks. The economy will likely dictate the timeline of achieving open space acquisition policies.

- Strategy 6.3** Recommend procedures for acquisition of specific properties

Staff Comment: Parks and Recreation has developed a real estate acquisition steps checklist. (this strategy should be deleted as it is completed)

Strategy 6.4 Collaborate with other entities and volunteer groups to plan and recommend contracts

Staff Comment: Not aware of progress.



2011 General Plan Committee Community Development

Date: Wednesday, June 13, 2012

To: Councilman Steve Blair, Brad Devries, Dave Fisher, Glenn Gooding, Miriam Haubrich, Councilman Chris Kuknyo, Terry Marshall, Zena Mitchell, Roxanne Nielsen, David Quinn, Elisabeth Ruffner, George Sheats and Gary Worob

From: Tom Guice, Community Development Director
George Worley, Planning Manager *GW*
Ryan Smith, Community Planner *RS*

Staff Memo Draft Open Space Element - Suggested Changes

PURPOSE:

To discuss updates to the Open Space Element and address suggested changes by staff. After reading the draft individually prior to the meeting, be prepared to discuss any requested changes to the text, goals and strategies regarding the content and character of the element. Grammatical corrections or simple word substitutions that do not change the character of the element may be submitted to staff prior to the meeting.

CHANGES MADE:

Parks and Recreation Department Director, Joe Baynes and Special Projects Administrator, Eric Smith have updated the data, project descriptions, goals and strategies, etc. The Element has also been edited for continuity, repetitious wording, long narration and other material related to recreational uses of City owned land.

Information covered in previous elements has been minimized with references made to the appropriate element. Text has been reworded and updated for clarification and consistency of information. Text, goals and strategies were modified or deleted to reflect City activities and directives that are currently mandated by other documents or agencies.

8.0 OPEN SPACE ELEMENT

8.1 INTRODUCTION

Open space includes Parks, Lakes, & Trails. Prescott is a naturally diverse mountain community 5,280 feet above sea level and located in a basin drained by seven creeks. The City boundaries adjoin land under Yavapai County jurisdiction, two incorporated towns, a Tribal reservation, and lands managed by the state and federal government. In addition to being a recreation center for area residents, Prescott attracts a high volume of tourists, and draws visitors to numerous camp facilities, lakes, pedestrian, equestrian and motorized trails, as well as parks, open space preserves and greenways.

Federal lands adjacent to Prescott are managed for a variety of public recreational and economic uses such as campgrounds, parks and trails, grazing, logging and mineral extraction. The US Department of Agriculture, Prescott national Forest and Bureau of Land Management exercise planning and management authority over unincorporated areas within the County. Tribal lands are managed separately by the Yavapai Prescott Indian Tribe.

The City of Prescott cooperates with other jurisdictions in the establishment of the regional trails system. Segments within the City are known as the Mile-High Trail System. Trail connectivity is a guiding principle as the trails system continues to develop throughout the region. Prescott's shared boundaries with the Prescott National Forest extend connectivity into the forest for hiking, bicycling and equestrian activities.

A component of the regional trails system is a 5.5 mile portion of abandoned railroad bed, a Rails-to-Trails project known as the Prescott Peavine National Recreation Trail, which connects to the Town of Prescott Valley's Iron King Trail, another rails-to-trails project. These trails will eventually connect with additional railroad rights-of-way heading north toward Chino Valley and will offer additional pedestrian, equestrian and bicycle recreation in the future. As of mid-2012, Prescott's Mile-High Trail System totals 46 miles.

The Town of Chino Valley, Town of Prescott Valley, Yavapai County and the City of Prescott collaborate in developing General Plan Open Space Elements and strive to connect open space projects. Existing collaborative projects include:

- abandoned rail lines converted to trails with appropriate access points
- connecting creeks and open space trails planned to extend beyond jurisdictional boundaries
- Glassford Hill Preserve, a parcel of state land which has been annexed - 900 acres by Prescott and 900 acres by Prescott Valley currently seeking joint stewardship
- Pioneer Park, jointly leased from Bureau of Land Management by the City of Prescott and Yavapai County under an intergovernmental agreement is comprised of 1000 acres and is being developed for active and passive recreation as well as the protection of open space identified as valuable by both jurisdictions
- Badger Mountain - Preserve status has been conferred by the State Land Department under the Arizona Preserve Initiative and is being annexed into the

A.R.S. 9-461.05.

An open space element that includes:

- (a) A comprehensive inventory of open space areas, recreational resources and designations of access points to open space areas and resources.
- (b) An analysis of forecasted needs, policies for managing and protecting open space areas and resources and implementation strategies to acquire additional open space areas and further establish recreational resources.
- (c) Policies and implementation strategies designed to promote a regional system of integrated open space and recreational resources and a consideration of any existing regional open space plans.

City. Joint stewardship measures will be planned by the City of Prescott in cooperation with other public and private entities

- Watson Woods Riparian Preserve is being managed in cooperation with Prescott Creeks Preservation Association, who hold a 25-year lease for its management
- recreation facilities, sports fields and tennis courts shared with Prescott Unified School District #1 and Yavapai Community College

The vast majority of undeveloped land, whether privately or publicly owned, is not officially designated as open space. These areas should be considered as temporary open space. Prescott has an open space zoning district which restricts uses and encourages land owners with this zoning designation to maintain their land in its natural state. Other means of conserving open space exist through easements, deed restrictions and development agreements, which are recorded legal documents used to manage development of a property. Several parks, lakes, trails and facilities have legal restrictions to conserve open space on federal lands or must conserve open space as a requirement of using federal and state funds to purchase land or provide amenities.

8.2 OPEN SPACE TERMS

The term Open Space is used in many forms and has different meanings in common usage. Typically, open space is used to describe undeveloped land with distinctions between private and public open space:

Private open space:

Some of the most scenic and unique areas within Prescott are privately owned. Many landowners recognize the natural qualities of their lands and may take voluntary steps to protect and conserve open space through rezoning, conservation easements or sale of development rights. Areas set aside as privately owned protected open space may or may not be accessible to the public depending on the specific arrangements. The City strives to provide public access to privately held open space areas by entering into joint use agreements with private property owners.

As privately owned lands are developed, open space areas may be protected through the Planned Area Development (PAD) process, whereby a minimum of 25% of the PAD area is set aside as protected open space. Typically, PAD open space areas are steep slopes, ridgelines, drainages or parks. Previous City codes allowed golf courses as open space, however, the current code states new golf courses may not be considered open space.

State Trust Lands should be considered as eventually to be privately owned due to the mission of the Arizona State Land Department to maximize revenues by the sale of these lands. Because of their development potential, these lands are temporary unprotected open space unless steps are taken toward conservation. Several state referendums have been introduced in recent years, without success, to allow state lands to be more easily preserved as open space. For example, Proposition 110 would have amended the Arizona Constitution to allow the state to exchange state trust lands for other public lands for the purpose of preserving open space. Citizen efforts to address open space concerns statewide may effect the Prescott area.

Public open space:

City owned public lands include lakes, streams, undeveloped natural areas, parks, trails and greenways. Examples include Acker Park, portions of the Granite Dells, and Prescott's Greenways. These areas typically protect important viewsheds, natural resources or provide passive recreational opportunities for trails and other uses. Federally owned public open space is provided by the adjacent Prescott National Forest and the joint City-County leasing of Pioneer Park, from the U.S. Department of the Interior - Bureau of Land Management.

A more specific type of public open space is know as a preserve. These are lands set aside and protected from development by purchase, covenants, city charter clauses, and/or state or federal laws. Some existing preserves include the hill and areas east of Thumb Butte, Boyle DeBusk Open Space Preserve, White Spar Creekside Park, Watson Woods Riparian Preserve, and portions of Watson and Willow Lakes.

8.3 INVENTORY

The City's park system began with City Park - now known as Ken Lindley Stadium, as a Works Progress Administration project in the early 1930s employing local workers. In the 1960s, the City aggressively pursued Federal Land & Water Conservation Funds for the acquisition and development of parks. The City began utilizing various State funding sources in the 1990s including the State Lake Improvement Fund, and the Heritage Fund provided for by State lottery revenues. Lands were specifically acquired for parklands or open space to be conserved in perpetuity. The largest area of parkland is Willow Lake and Watson Lake, purchased from the Chino Valley Irrigation District in 1998 through a voter approved initiative. The lakes total acreage is based on water surface area either at full or at a lesser conservation level. Measurements of land base acreage versus surface water acreage therefore fluctuate.

The Parks and Recreation Department currently provides recreational opportunities for all ages and demographics including:

- 5 Regional Parks (totaling 1,241 acres)
- 6 Community Parks (totaling 153 acres)
- 4 Neighborhood Parks (totaling 11 acres)
- 3 Mini-parks (totaling 2 acres)
- 46 miles of recreation trails
- 16 Open Space/Natural Parkland parcels (totaling 765 acres)
- One recreation center building
- Landscaped rights-of-way throughout the City

8.4 PARKS AND RECREATION

A variety of recreational activities occur in areas owned and managed by the City of Prescott including field sports, court sports, skateboarding, cycling, in-line hockey, hiking, horseback riding, bocce ball, lake sports, horseshoes, camping, rappelling, birding, remote control aircraft, playgrounds, picnicking, dancing, living history, live music, orienteering, geocaching, yoga, races, archery, zoo, community garden, dog park, nature center, performing arts and special events. The Department has a role in providing programs, facilities, and services for some of these recreation activities, and features one of the highest per capita sports participation rates in Arizona.

For the lakes managed by the Parks and Recreation Department, the City purchased buoys in 2000 to indicate granite mounds and boulders just below the surface of the

water as a danger to kayakers and boaters. However, the buoys were not deployed. Currently, "no-wake" motorized boating is allowed on Watson Lake. Should higher speed boating ever be considered, discussion between the community, City staff and the Council would be desirable due to the potential to miss marking a submerged rock with a buoy, especially with ever-changing water levels. Boaters are currently warned with signage, however, buoys may be used for marking general boundaries. Bass boats getting to their favorite fishing spot generally have motors up to 50hp. Larger motors for water skiing and personal water craft would not be desirable on our lakes due to inadequate water surface area and safety considerations.

The City maintains an ongoing dialog with the Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZGFD) regarding improving the lakes as fisheries. Discussions include slot limits for the bass population, removing crayfish to assist fish reproduction and other activities. AZGFD continues to stock trout in area lakes.

8.4.1 Parks and Recreation Goals and Strategies

Goal 1. Improve the distribution of new and existing parks and recreation opportunities and associated amenities throughout the community.

- Strategy 1.1** Seek financial support through the Capital Improvement Program and from the local community to upgrade aging facilities that have outdated amenities. These upgrades should have benefits to energy conservation, safety, aesthetics, tourism, user experience, and increased function.
- Strategy 1.2** Target appropriate available lands for acquisition, based upon an inventory of parks, open space and recreation facilities.
- Strategy 1.3** Establish plans and timelines for the development of targeted lands, as appropriate, through budget and capital improvement processes.
- Strategy 1.4** Update or amend the 2007 Parks and Recreation Master Plan to recognize new opportunities, changing recreation trends and facility needs.

Goal 2. Maximize parks and open space usage and potential uses through coordinated and cooperative efforts with surrounding jurisdictions.

- Strategy 2.1** Continue and expand cooperative programs with the Prescott National Forest, including trail connectivity and maintenance standards.
- Strategy 2.2** Seek new partnerships with Yavapai County, other government entities and non-profit organizations to serve the parks and recreation needs of Prescott, as well as the region.

Strategy 2.3 Continue coordination with the towns of Prescott Valley and Chino Valley to plan cross-jurisdictional trails, open space, and recreation opportunities.

Goal 3: Establish recreation strategies for Willow, Watson, and Goldwater Lakes to continually improve and enhance these assets to the City, for both residents and visitors.

Strategy 3.1: Seek to apply the recommendations of the Arizona Department Environmental Quality (ADEQ) by budgeting for and implementing measures to reduce the algae and weed growth in Willow and Watson Lakes.

Strategy 3.2: Work closely with the Arizona Game & Fish Department to continually improve the fishing conditions at Willow, Watson, & Goldwater Lakes.

Strategy 3.3: Should Watson Lake levels drop to the conservation pool elevation, seek appropriate partnerships from volunteer groups to remove dead and down trees at the south end of lake as a potential fire and safety hazard.

Strategy 3.4: Consider designated days where a wake may be permitted on Watson Lake with motor size not to exceed 50hp and personal watercraft not permitted. Electric-motor only designation should remain for Willow and Goldwater Lakes.

Strategy 3.5: Expand recreational opportunities and facilities at upper Goldwater Lake to fully utilize the area to better accommodate recreation demands and future recreation trends.

8.5 TRAILS AND GREENWAYS

Trails and greenways allow for non-motorized recreation and transportation, thereby benefitting clean air and health. Trails and greenways connect destinations within Prescott including schools, businesses, neighborhoods, parks and other recreational places. Prescott has received national recognition for a progressive approach to providing a high quality trail system. Completion of the 50-mile Prescott Circle Trail, Prescott Greenways, and Granite Dells trail expansion will further enhance the trail system.

8.5.1 Trails and Greenways Goals and Strategies

Goal 1. Expand and improve the connectivity of the trails and greenway system.

Strategy 1.1 Complete high priority trails such as the Prescott Circle Trail, Prescott Greenways and the Peavine Trail to Chino Valley.

Strategy 1.2 Establish a matrix using scoring criteria for proposed trails to define priorities for trail construction.

Strategy 1.3 Implement creative right-of-way acquisition strategies for trails.

Goal 2. Encourage greater public participation in the planning, development and maintenance of trails and greenways.

Strategy 2.1 Develop a community volunteer creek monitoring program expanding and supporting a creek watch project.

Strategy 2.2 Prepare information for residents and developers regarding the importance of trails and greenways, detailing how they contribute to the value of developed land and the health of the community. Include information regarding state laws on landowner protection from liabilities, fee simple purchases, license agreements, land donations and easement acquisitions.

8.6 OPEN SPACE POLICY

The Parks and Recreation Department is currently focused on the conservation of the Granite Dells area to expand recreational opportunities for area residents. The acquisition, dedication and stewardship of open space as a community amenity is also an economic development asset which supports the tourism industry.

The proportion of land dedicated to protect open space within the community is growing. This reflects a shift in attitude regarding the importance of open space, which began with public and private actions regarding trails in the early 1990s. As pristine areas with trails and access to the national forest began to develop, the public requested that access points remain untouched. This was accomplished through agreements made between the City, developers and National Forest officials. Protecting significant geological features, natural areas and viewsheds resulted in a number of private/public partnerships.

The City adopted a Master Trails Plan in 1996 and continues to pursue federal, state and private funding sources. Prescott voters approved a sales tax initiative in 2000 setting aside revenues for acquisition of open space as provided for in the City's adopted Open Space Master Plan, which was updated in 2008.

Open space is acquired based on biologic, geologic, recreation, cultural, historic, scenic and riparian characteristics of the land, as well as, tourism and economic assets for the future. Open space includes areas of scenic beauty, recreation, preserves for riparian areas, wildlife, vegetation, and cultural resources. The character and function of open space differs on a case by case basis depending on the individual property as well as the purpose for the acquisition.

Annexations will often have an open space component and are required to meet standards for open space as provided for in the Prescott Land Development Code. New open space assets are identified during the annexation process and stewardship plans are adopted by the City Council. In adjoining areas, open space may be maintained through intergovernmental agreements. The Arizona Revised Statutes (ARS) provide

Cities and Towns with the ability to plan adjoining areas outside the corporate limits, with the assumption that these areas may eventually be annexed.

8.6.1 Open Space Policy Goals and Strategies

- Goal 1.** Acquire open spaces through fee simple acquisition, purchase of development rights or easements, acceptance of voluntary dedications and negotiation of intergovernmental agreements:
- Strategy 1.1** Continue to develop parks for active recreation.
 - Strategy 1.2** Continue to acquire trails and contiguous open spaces along creeks or in other areas to connect trails or open spaces within the city and to like areas beyond the corporate limits.
 - Strategy 1.3** Preserve passive natural open spaces to conserve wildlife and view corridors, or protect cultural resources such as sensitive historic/archaeological sites.
 - Strategy 1.4** Rezone the property to an open space designation for all parcels of land acquired by the City for open space protection or conservation.
- Goal 2.** Identify significant open spaces in the Prescott area.
- Strategy 2.1** Prioritize open space parcels for City acquisition. Periodically review and update this list to reflect current conditions and information.
 - Strategy 2.2** Continue, where appropriate, to evaluate existing parcels of public or private open space to determine the most appropriate mechanism for conservation.
 - Strategy 2.3** Seek collaborative ventures between the private, public, and non-profit sectors for stewardship of open space lands.
 - Strategy 2.4** Promote proactive annexation of areas outside the City boundary, which have been identified as having significant open space value.
- Goal 3.** Achieve a community and region-wide balance between development and open space conservation.
- Strategy 3.1** Continue long-range regional cooperation in open space acquisition and stewardship.

- Strategy 3.2** Provide incentives to promote the dedication of open space by property owners.
- Goal 4.** Maintain the biological, cultural, visual, and recreational integrity of protected and unprotected tracts of open space.
 - Strategy 4.1** Continue to provide stewardship for all components of protected and unprotected tracts employing the expertise within city staff and organizations and entities within the Open Space Alliance.
 - Strategy 4.2** Maintain conservation of habitats and ecosystems within existing open space in accordance with city, state and federal requirements.
 - Strategy 4.3** Protect connectivity of existing open space areas and trails by requiring developing areas to provide appropriate access.
 - Strategy 4.4** Encourage re-vegetation of disturbed or damaged areas and removal of invasive non-native vegetation.
- Goal 5.** Create a City Council appointed advisory committee on open space acquisition and stewardship to exist as long as monies are available for acquisitions.
 - Strategy 5.1** Develop and adopt criteria for size, composition, policies and procedures for use by the advisory committee.