

VISION 2020 - OPEN SPACE

Issues

1. Preserving open space through potential sales or land exchanges
2. Improve creek access
3. Prevent illegal littering and dumping
4. Preserve area wildlife habitat
5. Protect dark skies
6. Expand and interconnect area trails
7. Increase number of area parks
8. Develop outdoor programs for youth

Goals and Objectives

Goal 1: Enhance parks, recreational opportunities

- a) Develop an open space master plan identifying geographic features, natural resources to be protected; recreational facilities; the support of open space acquisition and preservation;
- b) Develop and maintain an inventory of open space areas, recreational resources and access points to these areas;
- c) Promote analysis of future needs, policies for managing & protecting open space areas and resources AND implementation strategies to acquire additional open space and establish new recreational resources;
- d) Support policies and implementation strategies to promote a regional system of integrated open space & recreational resources - these strategies must consider existing regional open space plans;
- e) Strive to preserve desirable public lands for recreation, open space protection of wildlife habitats and buffering of residential areas;
- f) Work with the Forest Service, state agencies and Yavapai County to identify funding and development of public access, trails and parking infrastructure for forest service parcels;
- g) Encourage private land owner incentives for allowing non-motorized access to historical trails;
- h) Encourage parks at regional and local levels favoring natural recreational venues;
- i) Develop youth programs that utilize open spaces;

Goal 2: Participate in regional planning and strategies for interconnected greenways and trails

- a) Sponsor public forums on open space planning and trail development;
- b) Promote the use of greenbelts to separate communities and preserve their identities;
- c) Identify existing trails for differentiated uses (e.g. non-motorized and off highway vehicles);
- d) Support the development of community access points to non-motorized trails;
- e) Support and promote the development of a Sinagua Circle providing for motorized and non-motorized public access and descriptive facilities.
- f) Promote connecting open spaces to form wildlife corridors; set aside prime wildlife viewing areas;
- g) Promote the protection of riparian areas, watercourses, and associated floodplains

Goal 3: Preserve open space character.

- a) Monitor the protection of scenic views, mountain vistas by participating in development plan reviews and promoting sensitivity to natural areas, wildlife habitats and historical preservation;
- b) Promote eco-friendly development during the planning phases of new projects with private property developers;
- c) Encourage the retention of agricultural uses and agribusiness (e.g. ranches, farms);
- d) Support the Yavapai County Open Space and Sustainable Development and Cluster and Open Space options for new subdivisions; Work with Verde Valley Land Preservation Institute to identify parcels and funding to acquire open space parcels.
 - a) Encourage development of conservation easements;
 - b) Support programs to acquire open space in the planning area;
 - c) Identify potential open space parcels for Verde Valley Open Space planning updates;
 - d) Maintain clean air by mitigating sources of pollution;
 - e) Protect dark skies by encouraging strict enforcement of Yavapai County dark sky regulations and provide information to residents on how to limit light pollution;
 - f) Protect creeks and waterways by encouraging enforcement of Yavapai County land use regulations.

Goal 4: Reduce illegal littering and dumping.

- a) Support and sponsor public education programs;
- b) Continue to encourage community cleanup programs;
- c) Establish a local transfer station;
- d) Support and encourage enforcement of County, State and Federal regulations related to dumping and littering.

Implementation Policies, Strategies and Solutions

Leadership and policies for implementing these goals and objectives can come from the Beaver Creek Regional Council in cooperation with Yavapai County, National Park Service, Coconino National Forest, neighboring communities, and plan area organizations. The work outlined in this element would fall under the auspices of the BCRC committee on Open Space, working closely with other committees such as Planning and Zoning, Land Use, and Transportation. Under the direction of BCRC, the implementation strategies may include:

1. Establish linkages and cooperative agreements with area groups and key individuals focused on opens space issues.
2. Identify, participate and represent a Beaver Creek area membership in hiking, equestrian, ranching, OHV and other sportsman groups in the Verde Valley.
3. Distribute and present Vision 2020 Open Space and related elements to Forest Service, National Parks, State agencies, planners, developers and other property owner groups.
4. Participate in Verde Valley Open Space Recreation Planning activities and workshops.
5. Participate in wilderness and open space planning with Coconino Forest Service and National Parks Service.
6. Discourage Forest Service land trades within the plan area for private uses not conducive to the community vision.
7. Encourage maintaining the two forest service parcels within the core plan area for public open space and recreational uses as community parks.
8. Support opportunities to acquire large private land parcels outside of the core plan area as public open space for conservation and recreation uses.