

Flagstaff Regional Plan 2030
- 2015 ANNUAL REPORT -

NATURAL, BUILT, & HUMAN ENVIRONMENTS



INTRODUCTION

The *Flagstaff Regional Plan 2030 (FRP30)* is used for decision making so that Flagstaff City government is accountable for publicly-derived policy outcomes and goals. It provides the basis for policies and regulations to guide physical and economic development within the Flagstaff region. The Plan is used as a guide, or road map, for the future of the City and the region. It establishes priorities for public decisions and direction for complementary private decisions, thereby striving to establish predictability in the decision-making process.

The Annual Report consolidates metrics identified in Appendix D of the *FRP30* into a summary of the City's performance towards the Plan's goals, and an account of progress in Plan related work. While all the goals and policies in the Plan are directed to future needs and accomplishments, it is important to understand that many of them also reflect ongoing programs, initiatives, and actions already implemented by City, County, and other policy and decision makers. Progress towards the goals and policies in the Plan will be dependent on the community's ability or inability to fund the recommended actions, the policy decisions made by City Council and management, and the community support of the Plan.

This report is the second produced since the plan was adopted. Not all metrics are available on an annual basis, and gradual trends are difficult to observe at this point in time. City staff strives to establish consistent methods of gathering the relevant data, even as policies and accounting systems may change. The report will note when a policy or management change has resulted in a change to the measurement, as opposed to a change that is the result of Plan implementation. If a date appears in parentheses after a measurement, it signifies that data from a different year was used. For instance, some data used in the 2014 report was based on data between 2011-2014, because of the timing and availability of data.

The Report is organized into metrics for the Natural, Built, and Human Environments. It also reports on the use of the goals in City Council decision making, Regional Plan accomplishments, and future projects to implement the Plan.



NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

	2014	2015
ENVIRONMENTAL & CONSERVATION PLANNING		
Acres of protected open space within city limits	20 new acres 2,769 total acres	0 new acres 2,769 total acres
Number of community gardens and gardeners	5 community gardens 78 participants	5 community gardens 94 participants

The trend for Environmental and Conservation Planning is stable to increasing. Before 2014, the City purchased thousands of acres of State lands for conservation. In 2015, the City of Flagstaff hired its first Open Space Specialist, increasing staff capacity for open space and community gardens, and the Picture Canyon Management Plan was adopted.

	2014	2015
PUBLIC FACILITIES - Solid Waste		
Amount of municipal solid waste delivered to Cinder Lake Landfill	85,473 tons	86,891 tons
Remaining life of Cinder Lake Landfill	Estimated closure date: 2054	Estimated closure date: 2054
Tons of recycling collected	9,002 tons	9,216.18 tons
Waste diversion rate	14.32% diversion rate	15.33% diversion rate

The trend for Public Facilities - Solid Waste is slowly increasing. City staff increased the diversion rate and tons of recycling collected in 2015, even as the overall volume of solid waste increased. In 2015, City Council also approved the site plan for a new public works yard that meets the Regional Plan goals and policies.

	2014	2015
WATER RESOURCES		
Potable Water		
Water usage per capita (gallons per capita per day)	108 gpcd (produced) ¹ 94 gpcd (billed)	88 gpcd (billed)
Kilowatt hours used to produce and deliver potable water	21,117,850 kWh	19,253,690 kWh
Gallons of potable water delivered and cost per thousand gallons	2.4 billion gallons \$0.76 per thousand gallons	2.3 billion gallons \$0.72 per thousand gallons
Peak day consumption vs. total capacity (in million gallons)	Peak consumption: 12.33 MG on 6/20/14 Total capacity: 18.84 MG	Peak consumption: 10.2 MG on 6/26/15 Total capacity: 18.69 MG
Wastewater & Reclaimed Water		
Gallons of wastewater treated and cost per thousand gallons	2 billion gallons wastewater treated \$1.29 cost per thousand gallons ²	2 billion gallons wastewater treated \$2.93 cost per thousand gallons ²
Kilowatt hours used to treat wastewater and deliver reclaimed water	9,784,063 kWh	7,702,861 kWh

¹In 2014 water usage per capita was reported using total water produced, 2015 result is total water consumed, or billed

²2014 cost per gallons counted only one treatment plant, 2015 includes both Wildcat and Rio treatment plants

	2014	2015
Gallons of reclaimed water produced and delivered ^{3,4}	1,910,375,000 gallons produced 630,195,834 gallons delivered	1,966,794,000 gallons produced 625,959,771 gallons delivered
FY16 dollars spent on utilities infrastructure maintenance and repair ⁵	\$12,157,395	\$10,070,201
Stormwater		
Number of nonconforming properties brought into compliance with storm-water regulations	13 properties removed from the Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHZ)	3 properties removed from the SFHZ

³The 2014 result reported an incorrect number and was removed. Instead of gallons of reclaimed water produced, delivered, and sold - the metric now only reports on reclaimed water produced and delivered.

⁴ Difference between gallons produced and delivered is water discharged to the Rio de Flag in the off season.

⁵This amount is the known expenditures through the first three quarters of the fiscal year. See page 7 for FY16 CIP Budget pie chart.

Water consumption per capita has been dropping over the last 25 years, and is reflected in the last two years of the annual report. Water production was down last year despite an increase in population. This resulted in fewer kilowatt hours of energy used to meet demands. The data shows a decrease in peak water consumption, with nearly 2 million less gallons per day being consumed in 2015, which may be a response to a wet spring and summer. Total system capacity is maintained over the last two years. Also showing a consistent trend is the amount of wastewater being treated. The trend for reclaimed water produced and delivered is on a slight decrease between 2014 and 2015.

Three properties removed from the Special Flood Hazard Area is a more typical result than the 13 reported in 2014.

	2014	2015
ENERGY		
Municipal energy consumption in City facilities per square foot (in kilowatt-hours) ¹	23.9 kWh per square foot ²	24.5 kWh per square foot
Renewable energy generated by City facility installations	3,495.9 megawatt hours, or 6.5% of the City's energy use	3,553.3 megawatt hours, or 6.7% of the City's energy use

¹Looking at this on a per square foot basis allows analysis of building performance without the energy impact of water and wastewater processing and streetlights.

²The 2014 Report misreported 22.1 kWh per sq. ft.

Energy consumption for City buildings went up slightly in 2015, due to a variety of factors including weather, construction, equipment, and an increase in operational hours. At the same time, renewable energy generation also increased slightly. Despite a slight increase in energy consumption between 2014-2015, the percent of City energy use coming from renewables is stable due to greater renewable energy generation.

MISSING METRICS from the NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

- Wildlife corridors and habitat land consumed or preserved by development (Arizona Game and Fish Department-designated)
- Concentration of natural resources, conservation priority areas, open space acres protected through conservation easement, purchase, etc.
- Biodiversity (birds, plants, amphibians, fish, mammals, reptiles) – total species count – Arizona Game and Fish Department data (when available)
- Update Natural Environment maps with pertinent information

BUILT ENVIRONMENT

	2014	2015
COMMUNITY CHARACTER		
Fiscal year dollars allocated to beautification of public areas	FY15 Beautification Operations budget: \$141,823 Beautification Capital budget: \$3,026,213	FY16 Beautification Operations budget: \$182,714 Beautification Capital budget: \$3,767,477
Total number of brownfield environmental site assessments completed ¹	5	6
Total number of brownfield redevelopment projects approved	0	0
Heritage resources inventoried and preserved or demolished (Cultural Resource Surveys)	Not available	123 properties inventoried 8 properties preserved 5 properties demolished

¹ Environmental site assessments receive federal grant funding and are made available to two counties and three cities in the Northern Arizona region. This report only includes assessments done within city limits.

The overall trends for Community Character are increasing based on increasing funding and use of available city resources. The City provides grants to evaluate brownfield properties, which assist property owners in identifying and remediating sources of environmental contamination. Beautification funding, which is generated by tourism revenues, has increased as well in the last year. Baseline data for heritage resources was established with this year's report.

	2014	2015
GROWTH AREAS & LAND USE		
Land Use		
Acres annexed into the city	0	180 acres
Number of major and minor amendments to the Flagstaff Regional Plan	0	1 major plan amendment: Map 25 Transportation Network Illustration 2 minor plan amendments: La Plaza Vieja Neighborhood Specific Plan and Core Services Yard
Acres of area types changed on the Future Growth Illustration (Map 22)	0	Area in White to Existing Suburban = 15 acres Future Urban to Existing Suburban = 9.7 acres Future Suburban to Existing Suburban = 4 acres

All of the plan amendments that were successful in 2015 were proposed by the City of Flagstaff. The Core Services Yard plan amendment reduced the urban area type by 9.7 acres in the activity center located at Woody Mountain Road and Route 66. It also increased the suburban area type by almost 25 acres city-wide. Details about each amendment can be found the Regional Plan Accomplishments section.

	2014	2015
Land use distribution within Activity Centers (in acres) ¹	Commercial: 814 Industrial: 201 Public: 434 Open Space: 0 Residential: 628	Commercial: 813 Industrial: 201 Public: 485 Open Space: 0 Residential: 622
Land use distribution outside Activity Centers (in acres) ¹	Commercial: 891 Industrial: 1,294 Public: 15,581 Open Space: 268 Residential: 18,258	Commercial: 901 Industrial: 1,421 Public: 15,581 Open Space: 268 Residential: 18,258
Total building footprint (How much is actually built upon out of total city acres)	Total pavement coverage: 11.7% Total building coverage 3.9% Total impervious surface coverage: 15.7%	Total pavement coverage: 11.8% Total building coverage: 4.1% Total impervious surface coverage: 15.9%
Permits & Development Projects		
Residential permits issued and number of new units	266 residential permits 161 new residential units	220 residential permits issued 407 new residential units
Commercial and industrial permits issued	122 non-residential permits	28 commercial permits issued
Commercial and industrial space added or lost	532,215 square feet added	147,855 square feet added
Number of mixed use projects built	0	1 mixed use project built
Total number of infill projects built	11 infill projects, 7 redevelopment projects built	2 infill projects, 1 redevelopment project built

¹ 2014 land use distribution results are slightly different from last year's annual report because GIS calculation methods were changed.

The trends for Growth and Land Use are slowly increasing. Successful rezoning cases were minimal. The largest rezoning in an activity center was the Public Works Yard. The increases in Industrial land outside of activity centers was related to the annexation of the Gore properties in west Flagstaff. Even though the number of new residential units increased, the number of commercial and industrial permits and added square footage fell. The first mixed use project constructed since adoption of the Regional Plan was built at the Village at Aspen Place. Overall infill and redevelopment projects were down in 2015. Housing and building trends are rarely linear and so the mix of results reflects the recovering housing market and a trend towards larger projects being proposed on infill sites that take longer to bring to market.

BUILT ENVIRONMENT

	2014	2015
TRANSPORTATION		
Walkability and bikeability indexes	Walkability: 33/100 Bikeability: Not available	Walkability: 33/100 Bikeability: 73/100
Number of pedestrian and bike accidents	44 pedestrian crashes; 2.5% of all crashes 70 bike crashes, 4% of all crashes	26 pedestrian crashes, 1.4% of all crashes 30 bike crashes, 1.6% of all crashes
Percentage of population within 3/4 mile of bus stop and new bus stops added to transit system	29,511 residential units within 3/4 mile of a bus stop 73% residential units in NAIPTA's service area within 3/4 mile of bus stop	29,838 residential units within 3/4 mile of a bus stop 73% of residential units in NAIPTA service area within 3/4 mile of bus stop 3 new bus stops added
Miles of FUTS/bike lanes installed	.6 miles added 55.2 total FUTS miles	1 new FUTS mile added 56.2 total FUTS miles
Complete/incomplete sidewalk grid	42.1% of major streets 50.8% of public streets	52.1% of major streets ¹ 53.6% of public streets
Internal Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT), average per capita per day ²	1,474,767 internal VMT/day 17 VMT per capita/day (2013)	1,524,069 internal VMT/day 17 VMT per capita/day
Number of operations and passengers enplaned at Flagstaff Pulliam Airport	68,754 enplanements 41,986 operations	134,517 passengers 67,421 enplanements 44,527 operations

¹ The 2015 increase in the completed sidewalk grid reflects the Engineering Design Standards and Specifications update in relation to functional classes and changes to the definition of major roads.

² Interstate through trips are removed, VMT captures internal, or local, trips only. Last year's annual report included through trips, resulting in an artificially high number of VMT for FMPO residents.

Overall walkability in Flagstaff is on a slowly increasing trend. In 2015, there were several improvements to bicycle, pedestrian and transit infrastructure and safety. First, the number of bicycle and pedestrian crashes declined. Three new bus stops and one new mile of FUTS trail were added. The overall walkability score remained stable for the City. There were several streets that received new sidewalks as part of capital projects. An additional 2.8% of public streets have sidewalks on both sides of the street, but the metrics for major street show a larger than expected increase because the Engineering Standards were revised in 2015 which changed the definitions of a major street.

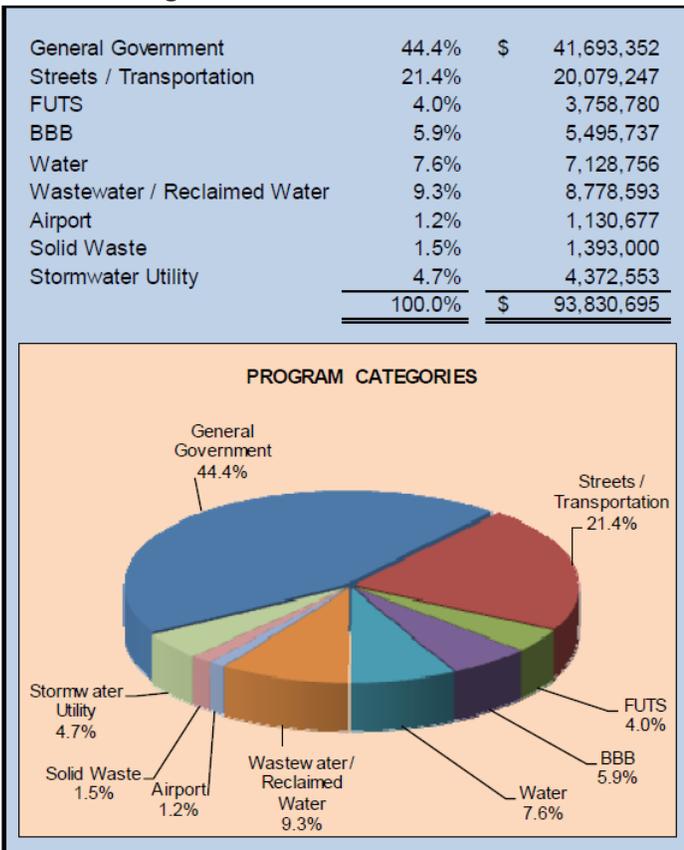
The overall vehicle miles traveled (VMT) increased but the rate of VMT per capita per day remained stable. The 2014 VMT estimate was revised in this report because it captured a large amount of freight and interstate traffic on I-40 and I-17.

Enplanements at the Flagstaff Pulliam Airport were down but the number of operations at the airport increased in 2015. Flagstaff continues to pursue a second airline for the community.

	2014	2015
COST OF DEVELOPMENT		
Percent of City budget devoted to Capital Improvement Projects	39% of total City budget FY15 CIP appropriations: \$93,256,402 Total FY15 appropriations: \$238,184,402	39% of total City budget FY16 CIP appropriations: \$93,830,695 Total FY16 appropriations: \$241,717,597
Dollars spent on road improvement CIP projects ¹	Approximately \$8 million	Approximately \$10.7 million
Miles of Road Improvements	Not available	Road Repair & Street Safety Program: 125.9 lane miles improved Capital Improvement Projects: 1.55 lane miles improved

¹This amount is the known expenditures through the first three quarters of the fiscal year.

FY16 CIP Budget Pie Chart



The overall investment in Capital Improvements grew proportionally to the increase of the overall City budget. 2015 was the first year implementing the Road Repair and Streets Safety program. The program is funded by a sales tax increase approved by voters in November 2014, and will continue over the next 20 years. Every paved street maintained by the City will be improved during the term of the tax. Most of the significant improvements, including water and sewer line repairs, will take place over the next 7 years. In the Capital budget, funding for streets and transportation was increased because of the new sales tax revenues. Funding was generally stable for Water, Wastewater, Stormwater, FUTS, BBB, and Solid Waste. General government funding decreased because 2014 marked the completion of the Business Incubator and Airport Capital funding.

FY16 CIP Budget Pie Chart: Funded projects in the five-year Capital Improvement Program fall into eight broad categories. Operations and maintenance costs for Streets/Transportation and Water/Wastewater/Reclaimed Water comprise roughly \$36 million dollars of the total CIP budget.

MISSING METRICS - BUILT ENVIRONMENT

- 100-year water demand studies per city project, part of Utilities Division updates
- Connectivity of roadways – measure in intersections per square mile, future FMPO metric
- Mode share numbers available every five years, last available in 2012.

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

	2014	2015
INDICATORS OF OVERALL COMMUNITY WELL BEING		
Population and demographic characteristics ¹	Total population: 66,569 (2013) Median age: 25.7 Percent of population whose income is below poverty level: 24.6% ²	Total population: 67,419 (2014) Median age: 25.9 Percent of population whose income is below poverty level: 24.9%
Educational attainment ¹	90.6% high school graduate or higher	91.2% high school graduate or higher
Voter turnout after local elections	Primary Election: 20,988 ballots cast / 66,909 voters = 31.37% turnout General Election: 37,734 ballots cast / 70,719 voters = 53.36% turnout Special Election: 7,070 ballots cast / 28,069 voters = 25.22% turnout	Special Election: 6,745 votes cast / 28,513 registered voters = 23.7% turnout Special Election: 4,604 ballots cast / 29,409 registered voters = 15.7% turnout

¹Population and demographic characteristics are American Community Survey's 5 year estimates from 2013 and 2014, since 2015 estimates aren't available yet. The Census' 2013 estimate has been revised from 68,667.

²Percent of population whose income is below poverty level was moved from Economic Development.

American Community Survey data suggests a slightly increasing trend for population. The Census produces ongoing revisions to all estimates, so per capita estimates throughout the report may have used older population numbers. The trend for both median age and educational attainment are seeing a trend increase. Poverty rates are on a slight increasing trend, which is reflected in the decreasing trend of the median wage in Flagstaff (see page 9, Economic Development). Voter participation is down in 2015 because it was not a year for State or national elections.

	2014	2015
NEIGHBORHOODS, HOUSING & URBAN CONSERVATION		
Median housing price	\$264,032 (2013)	\$330,000
Median rents	2 bedrooms: \$1,066 (2013)	2 bedrooms: \$1,021
Rental/ownership ratio	50% rental 50% ownership	55% rental 45% ownership
Housing mix (number of units, housing type, percent of total units)	Not available	Single Family: 12,188 detached; 47% of total 2,575 attached; 10% of total Multi-family: 2,223 2-4 units; 9% of total 3,610 5-19 units; 14% of total 3,712 20+ units; 14% of total 1,543 mobile homes, 6% of total 25,851 residential units total
Number of affordable housing units generated by residential projects	17 rental units	2 ownership units 12 rental units
Number of specific plans completed	0	1 specific plan completed, La Plaza Vieja Neighborhood Specific Plan
Number of distressed buildings ¹	36 distressed buildings (2013) 3 demolished	15 distressed buildings

	2014	2015
Allocation of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding	FY15 CDBG Entitlement Award: \$570,941.00 Total reallocation from program income and previous project years: \$44,527.73 Total available: \$615,468.73	FY16 CDBG Total entitlement award: \$579,591.00 Total reallocation from program income and previous project years: \$235,757.89 Total available: \$815,348.89

¹In 2014, the number of complaints of distressed buildings was included in the metric, but has been removed from subsequent reports because a complaint does not constitute a distressed building as defined by the building code. Number of demolished buildings was not tracked in 2015.

Housing prices are on a quickly increasing trend, which may have an interesting impact on the rental-ownership ratio. The 2014 American Community Survey data shows an increasing trend in the number of rental households, likely due to the rising cost of home ownership. Median rents are becoming more difficult to estimate, because some property management companies are using a demand-based pricing model that fluctuates on a daily basis. The number of distressed properties fell by half since the list was first developed in 2013, another indicator of a stronger housing market. CDBG program income increased due to lease and sale of properties that hadn't sold during the economic downturn.

	2014	2015
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT		
Median wage and per capita income ¹	Median wage: \$19,516 ² Per capita income: \$24,455	Median wage: \$18,632 Per capita income: \$24,702
Population to workforce ratio ¹	55,045 to 38,606; 70.13% ³	55,922 to 38,998; 69.73%

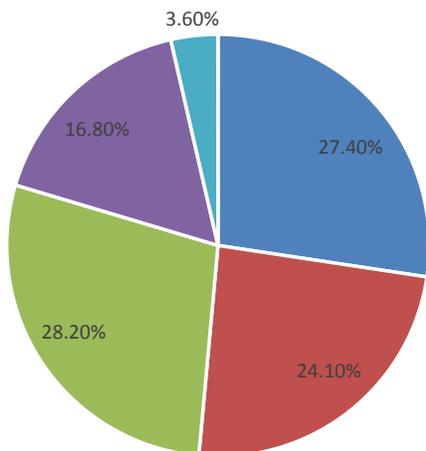
¹All income and employment characteristics are American Community Survey's 5 year estimates.

²Last year's report incorrectly included median household income (\$49,771) rather than median annual earnings for all workers, or median wage.

³The workforce ratios count members of the population who are 16 and older, the 2014 result included total population, and is corrected here.

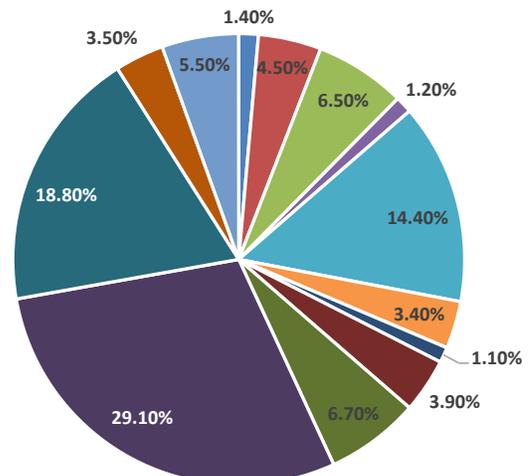
¹2015 Income Characteristics

- \$24,999 or less
- \$25,000-\$49,999
- \$50,000-\$99,000
- \$100,000-\$199,000
- \$200,000+



¹2015 Employment by Sector

- Agriculture
- Manufacturing
- Retail Trade
- Information
- Science/Management/Administrative
- Arts/Entertainment/Recreation/Tourism
- Public Administration
- Construction
- Wholesale Trade
- Transportation/Warehousing/Utilities
- Finance/Insurance/Real Estate
- Education/Health Care/Social Assistance
- Other Services



HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

	2014	2015
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT - continued		
Dollars allocated to business attraction and retention	FY15 Business Attraction & Retention: \$255,695	FY16 Business Retention and Expansion: \$97,550 Business Attraction: \$129,629 Business Accelerator: \$241,320 Business Incubator: \$267,563
Number of visitors	4 million	4.6 million

Flagstaff's median wage is on a decreasing trend, while per capita income saw a small increase. Corrected figures for 2014-2015 show Flagstaff's workforce population hovers around 70%. Visitor numbers are on an increasing trend, and at 18.8%, tourism is the second largest employment sector. Education and healthcare-related industries like Northern Arizona University and Flagstaff Medical Center are the largest sectors, making up 29% of the employment base. Economic Vitality saw an increase in City funding for the construction of a business accelerator to complement an existing business incubator program.

	2014	2015
RECREATION		
Acres added to parks system (Includes all City recreational facilities and some school turf/courts)	26 new park acres 735 acres total	0 new park acres 735 total acres
Dollars allocated to Parks & Recreation	FY15 Parks: \$3,230,736 FY15 Recreation: \$3,289,748	FY16 Parks: \$3,371,232 FY16 Recreation: \$3,310,670

Programming of recreational events and activities through public partnerships:

- Coordination with Coconino County to promote outdoor adventure summer camp for kids and Flagstaff Unified School District per the terms of Intergovernmental Agreements to share space, activities, and support after school programming
- Jay Lively: Flagstaff Figure Skating Club provides ice skating lessons; Northland Family Help Center, Boys and Girls Club, Guidance Center, and Halo House provide ice skating opportunities to vulnerable populations
- Joe C Montoya Community and Senior Center: Coconino County coordinates the senior lunch program and Meals on Wheels; United Way provides tax preparation services for center participants; NAU Senior Corps, Northern Arizona Gerontology Association, Northern Arizona Healthcare Foundation, Northern Arizona Home Health, and Flagstaff Biking Organization all support programming for center participants
- Flagstaff Recreation Center: Marine League Charities, NAU Basketball Program, Phoenix Suns, Mountain T's, Better to Give Program, the Flagstaff Symphony Orchestra, other local businesses, and Flagstaff Sports Foundation support programming or provide funding for lower income participants; Pepsi, the Orpheum, and other local businesses support Northern Arizona's Got Talent; the Flagstaff Police Department supports Night Court, a Friday night program where police officers play basketball with youth.
- Aquaplex: North Country Health Care hosts an adult and a children's health fair; Pickleball Association; Passes for Guidance Center and Child & Family Support; Northern Arizona Health Care provides free health screenings; NAU support for lifeguard classes and safety audits; American Red Cross; NAPEBT offers free fitness classes to NAPEBT members.

MISSING METRICS - HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

- Affordability index – annual incomes, monthly income, monthly average housing payment (rent/own)
- Median wage of new companies attracted or started in the last year

MOST CITED REGIONAL PLAN GOALS IN CITY STAFF REPORTS

Goals from all 15 chapters of the Plan (67 out of 75 goals) were cited in staff reports in 2015. Below are the top 11 most cited goals in staff reports to City Council between January 2015 and December 2015. Each of these goals were used 12-21 times each.

- **Goal PF.2.** Provide sustainable and equitable public facilities, services, and infrastructure systems in an efficient and effective manner to serve all population areas and demographics. (Cited 21 times)
- **Goal LU.7.** Provide for public services and infrastructure. (Cited 19 times)
- **Goal T.1.** Improve mobility and access throughout the region. (Cited 18 times)
- **Goal ED.3.** Regional economic development partners support the start-up, retention, and expansion of existing business enterprises. (Cited 16 times)
- **Goal E&C.6.** Protect, restore and improve ecosystem health and maintain native plant and animal community diversity across all land ownerships in the Flagstaff region. (Cited 15 times)
- **Goal CC.1.** Reflect and respect the region's natural setting and dramatic views in the built environment. (Cited 15 times)
- **Goal CC.4.** Design and develop all projects to be contextually sensitive, to enhance a positive image and identity for the region. (Cited 14 times)
- **Goal WR.4.** Logically enhance and extend the City's public water, wastewater, and reclaimed water services including their treatment, distribution, and collection systems in both urbanized and newly developed areas of the City to provide an efficient delivery of services. (Cited 13 times)
- **Goal T.2.** Improve transportation safety and efficiency for all modes. (Cited 13 times)
- **Goal WR.2.** Manage a coordinated system of water, wastewater, and reclaimed water utility service facilities and resources at the City level and identify funding to pay for new resources. (Cited 12 times)
- **Goal ED.7.** Continue to promote and enhance Flagstaff's unique sense of place as an economic development driver. (Cited 12 times)

The following Departments cited *FRP30* goals in staff reports in 2015: Management Services, Community Development, Economic Vitality, Public Works, Utilities and Fire. Goals not cited in any staff reports were: E.2, CC.6, LU.11, LU.15, LU.17, NH.2, ED.1, and ED.5.

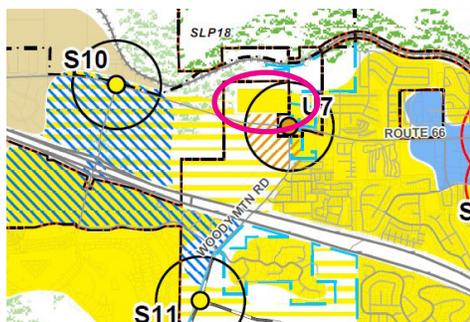
About half of the goals listed above (marked in orange) focus on the Built Environment section of the Plan, which is reflective of the busy year Community Development had in terms of new development, transportation, and Capital Improvement Projects. The most cited goal of 2015 dealt with maintaining public facilities, services and infrastructure, which is applicable to nearly all City departments. The Natural Environment goals most cited last year (marked in green) dealt with preservation of natural systems and water management related to the Open Space Management Plan for Picture Canyon and water utility rate increases. Economic Vitality staff was a top user of goals from the Human Environment section (marked in blue) relating to business enterprise and promotion of Flagstaff as an economic hub, largely attributable to the 2015 expansion of business accelerator programs.

REGIONAL PLAN ACCOMPLISHMENTS

COMPLETED PLAN AMENDMENTS

The Regional Plan is a living, working plan that serves as a guiding policy document for the City of Flagstaff. Its implementation depends on the ability to keep the Plan flexible and current, the actions of the City Council and staff, and community investment from the private and public sector, among many factors. Implementation and maintenance of the Plan began as soon as it was ratified by voters. In 2014, the City Clerk implemented the ability to enter Regional Plan goals and policies into all City Council staff reports. City Council included implementation of the Regional Plan in their annual budget priorities for the last two years. City staff has now prepared two annual reports to inform Council and the community about the progress made. Not every Plan implementation accomplishment is easily measurable. This section describes the work of the Comprehensive Planning program and other City staff which the metrics do not capture.

The City Council adopted the **La Plaza Vieja Neighborhood Specific Plan** in October 2015. It is the first specific plan to implement the *Flagstaff Regional Plan 2030*. Staff from multiple departments and members of the La Plaza Vieja Neighborhood Association formed a team to work on the Specific Plan. The renewed collaborative effort created a document that prioritizes goals and policies for the neighborhood, provides 3D illustrations of compatible buildings, outlines historic preservation opportunities, enhances community park space, and will guide the connection of roads, bike and pedestrian facilities as the neighborhood redevelops.



The future site for the City's **Core Services Yard** was selected and rezoned in 2015. The rezoning and plan amendment affected an area slightly less than 10 acres in the northwest corner of the future Urban activity center at West Route 66 and Woody Mountain Road. The future Urban and Suburban, and "Area in white" were amended to existing Suburban.

The City Council adopted the **Map 25 Major Plan Amendment** in December 2015. The amendment brought Map 25 (Road Network Illustration) into compliance with State statute. It also clarifies the use of the term "corridor" in the Growth and Land Use (IX) and Transportation (X) chapters of the Plan. Concurrent with this process, the City's Traffic program brought forward amendments to the *Engineering Design Standards and Specifications* to bring the code into compliance with the Regional Plan.

In December 2015, the Comprehensive Planning and Communications programs launched the Flagstaff Community Forum, an online civic engagement platform hosted by Peak Democracy, Inc. The Forum enhances public participation opportunities in the City by providing a centralized place for citizens to engage about City policy and project discussions without having to attend a formal public meeting. The topics are generated by City staff, commissions, and Council for the purpose of public participation in current government decision making. As of May 13, 2016, there have been 1,694 visitors, 479 participants and 611 subscribers and use of the site continues to grow.

Throughout 2015, the Comprehensive Planning program supported planning efforts throughout the region, including reviewing and providing input on the Coconino County Comprehensive Plan, NAIPTA's Spine Route Study, and the FMPO's Regional Transportation Plan.

In 2016, the Comprehensive Planning staff will work on updates to Chapter III of the Regional Plan and begin the High Occupancy Housing Plan. Along with these projects, the program will work with the Information Technology department to increase the program's ability to provide interactive maps through new GIS capabilities.

FUTURE COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING PROJECTS

PROPOSED PLAN AMENDMENTS

Throughout the first year of using the Regional Plan, the Comprehensive Planning staff identified text and map clarifications and corrections with a wide range of implications from editorial errors to substantive changes. Some of these issues were generated by the Planning and Development Services staff's review of the document, some by questions from the public, and some by development application concepts. Because of the volume of changes, staff proposed in the 2014 Annual Report to divide the identified changes into amendment tasks that are related to a common issue, and to process each amendment task as a separate application over the next 2-3 years. Each amendment task would have its own public involvement process and would be presented to Council separately.

In 2015, Comprehensive Planning staff completed one of the amendment tasks identified, the Map 25 major plan amendment. Staff began working on the second amendment task, the Chapter III minor plan amendment, in December 2015. A final draft of the Chapter III minor plan amendment has begun the public hearing process. This amendment primarily addresses a revision of the amendment table found in Chapter III: How this Plan is Used. The table is used to determine if a development application requires a major or minor plan amendment, which will be made easier with additional descriptive text throughout the entire chapter. Anticipated Council adoption date is June 14, 2016.

The remaining amendment tasks to be completed are:

- **Amendment Task 1:** Clarify the use of terminology “Great Streets” and “corridors” along with any qualifiers used in the Plan. Additions or extensions of Great Streets and corridors can trigger a major plan amendment, but the terms are used with numerous qualifiers and in slightly different contexts throughout the Plan. Amendment Task #2 will address some edits related to this topic, but further work will be needed that can be accomplished without a major amendment. Public input from the Milton Corridor Study could also inform these edits.
- **Amendment Task 2:** Clarify terms and descriptive information in the Land Use Chapter. In the year since the Plan was adopted, there have been several customer questions and applications that have spotlighted inconsistencies in the land use chapter. These changes could be processed as a minor amendment, likely to start in 2016. While a faster timeline would be preferred, there is not capacity within the Comprehensive Planning program until other projects have been completed.
- **Amendment Task 3:** There are numerous non-substantive editing errors that need to be fixed in order to improve the readability of the document. Final editing of the Regional Plan was rushed to meet the election timelines and, therefore, many of the internal editing issues in the document were not completed. This task would be likely completed in 2016 or 2017 depending on other project work.

After working on the Chapter III minor amendment and second annual report, the Comprehensive Planning Manager identified revisions needed to Appendices A and D. Revised versions of those documents will be available at www.FlagstaffMatters.com in 2016.

UPCOMING SPECIFIC PLANS

Staff is working on the final draft of a Pedestrian-Bicycle Master Plan, with the public hearing process expected to begin in Fall 2016. Comprehensive Planning staff has launched a collaborative effort to develop a city wide High Occupancy Housing Plan. Work on this planning effort is expected to last from May 2016 through June 2017. As part of the FY17 budget process, Council approved funds for staff to begin updating the Southside Neighborhood Plan. This update will run concurrent with the High Occupancy Housing Plan, and will begin Spring 2017.

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