



Old Walnut Canyon Road

August 30, 2016



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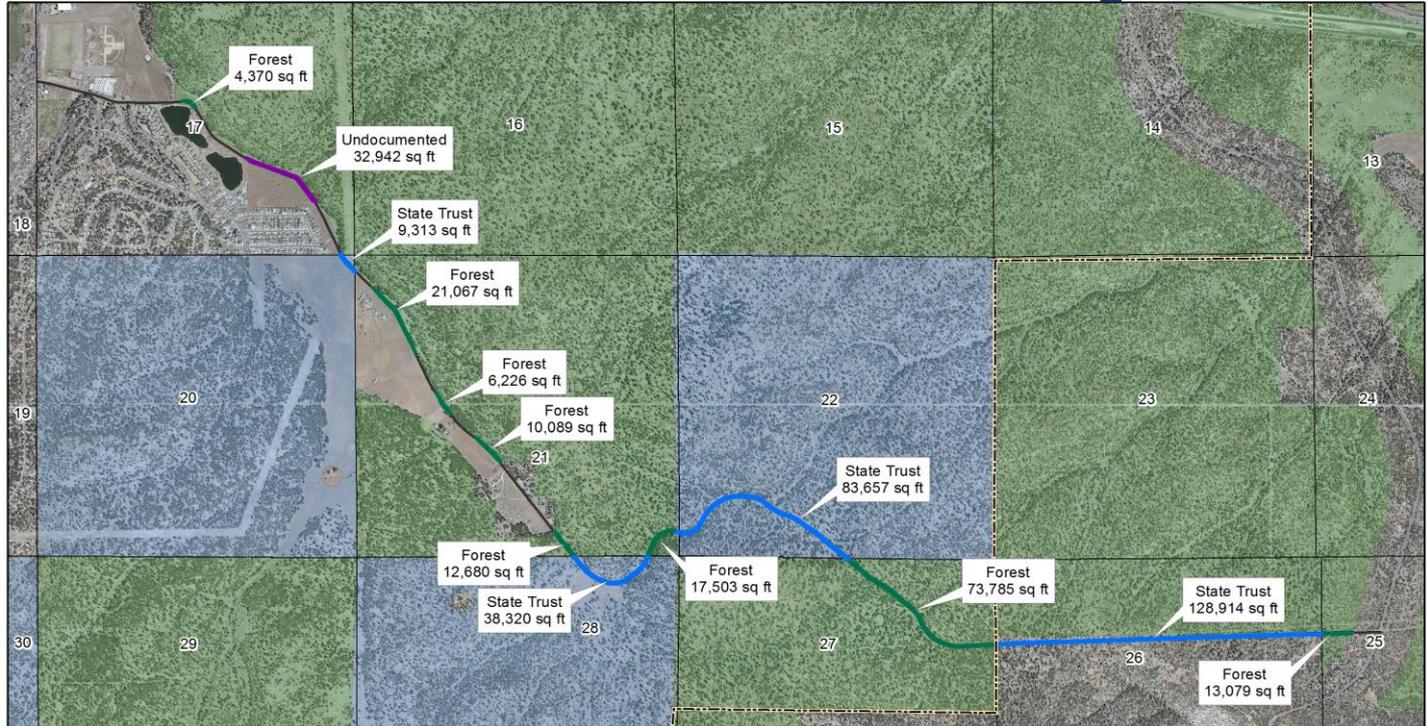


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Forest Service / State Trust Land / Private Properties



Intersect of Old Walnut Canyon Rd and Forest Service Land

- Old Walnut Canyon Rd within Coconino National Forest
- Old Walnut Canyon Rd within State Trust Land
- Undocumented Encumbrance
- Coconino National Forest Land
- State Trust Land

- Old Walnut Canyon Rd
- Section lines
- City Limits



Old Walnut Canyon Rd from Country Club Dr to Walnut Canyon Rd: 680,380 square feet
 Pavement: 55,940 square feet
 Dirt: 624,440 square feet

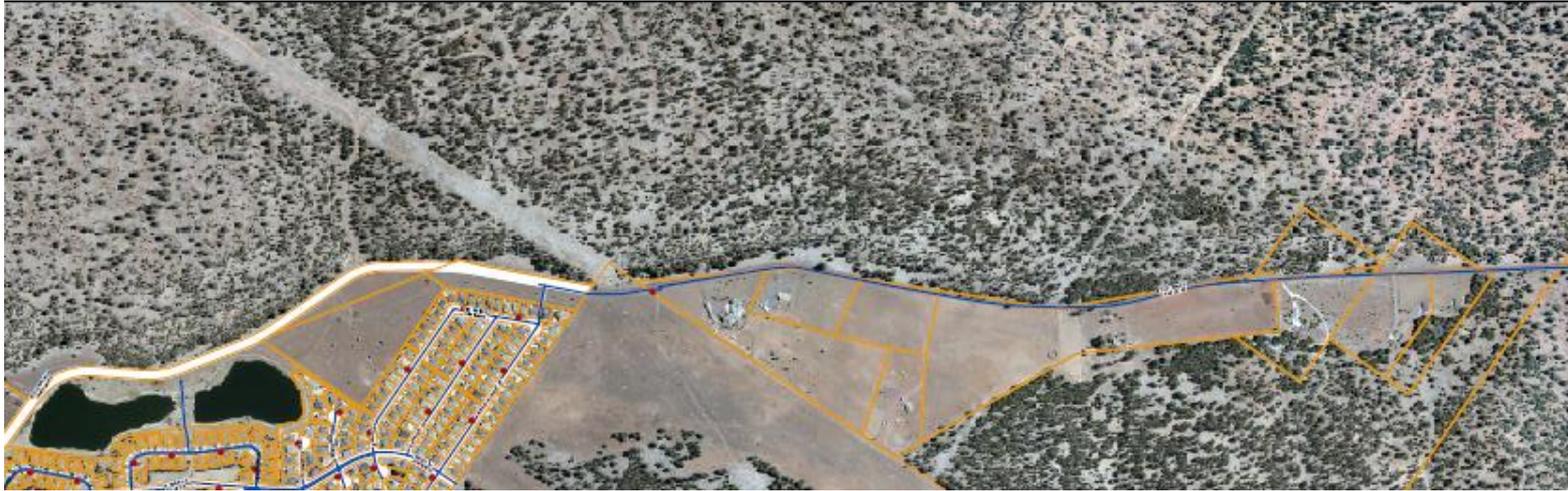


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History of Area



- **1917-** The Fish family homesteaded 26 acres within Section 21 in East Flagstaff. In **1922**, they added 60 acres to the homestead.
- **1937-**The City of Flagstaff extended a 2" water line to provide water service to Walnut Canyon National Monument.
- **1958-**Area Annexed into City limits
- **1977-**The 86 acres property (known as the Fish Ranch) was sold and divided between 3 families.
- **1988-** City questioned ability and authority to maintain road but decision made to continue maintenance based on historical precedence.
- **2000** – J. Heath purchased and installed a new 2" water line and provided the City a 16' easement for the City to take over maintenance of the line.



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History Cont.

- **5/28/12** – Letter from residents was received requesting paving of road. Staff met with residents and was able to confirm maintenance would not change.
- **5/7/15** – Letter mailed to Council requesting the City to pave Old Walnut Canyon Road by the citizens that live on the road.
 - Staff began assessing the responsibility of maintaining the road. City has bladed and plowed the road based on historical precedence but no formal agreement exists.
 - Per the Forest Service, no existing easements or permits on the federal lands between the City and Forest Service.
 - A NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act study) would be required.
- **5/3/16** – Item was on the Council agenda as a future agenda item and it was unanimous that it would be discussed at a future work session.
- **Old Walnut Canyon Road has served as Recreational and Forest Service access for many years.**



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Stakeholders:

- Residents of Old Walnut Canyon road
- Forest Service/State Trust Land
- City of Flagstaff



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Residents

Options discussed with Residents:

- Continue maintaining the road as is currently done.
- Paving the private road as well as the Forest Service access road.
- Installation of millings, chip sealing the road and seal coating.



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Forest Service Comments

- Millings, chip seal and seal coat create a higher standard of service than what is provided for the roadway. Dust abatement and grading is a level of service not provided.
- Forest Service would not be able to provide the same level of service if the City stopped servicing road in the future.
- Need for recorded legal access.
- Forest Service holds a Right of Way permit on State Trust Land for authorization to conduct maintenance activities across State Trust land.



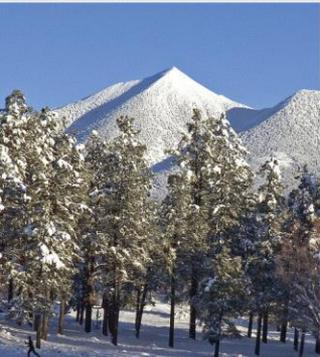
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Street Section Perspective

- Streets currently spends approximately \$70,000/year maintaining Old Walnut Canyon Road, \$50,000 of this is material.
- Maintenance is funded through HURF (Highway User Revenue Funds) Gas tax.
- Improvements are not in the Capital Improvement Program.



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Options

1. Continue to maintain the road "As Is" based on historical precedence.
 - Obtain maintenance agreement from Forest Service
 - Obtain public access easement
2. Stop maintaining the road
3. Install Millings, Chip Seal and Seal coat road: estimated cost of \$168,000
 - Obtain easement or permit from Forest Service (NEPA required) as we cannot own Forest Service land.
 - Obtain public access easement
 - Obtain Right of Way from Property Owners
4. Improve the road with pavement: estimated cost: \$2.6 million dollars
 - Obtain easement or permit from Forest Service (NEPA required) as we cannot own Forest Service land.
 - Obtain public access easement
 - Obtain Right of Way from Property Owners



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City wide discussion



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Non Standardized City Maintained Roads

Documented for maintenance:

- Frontier – Forest Service Road with a special use permit granted to the City for Public Roadway
- Penstock, Empire, Commerce and Preston – Public Roadways
- Brannen – Public Roadway
- Gable – Abandoned in 1991
- Fir – Public Roadway
- Westridge subdivision – Private Roads that HOA is responsible for - 5.6 lane miles



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Non Standardized City Maintained Roads

Undocumented for maintenance:

- Kinlani to BIA gate – within Thorpe Park – FS
- Mountain Meadow- Letter of intent regarding the road but no mention of maintenance public or private.
- Dog Pound Road (S. Fourth St)- Private
- CO Bar, J. Diamond and Chisholm – roads are identified on plat, but there is no mention of maintenance.
- Meade
- Walnut Canyon Road - Forest Service/Private



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Non Standardized Roads Within City Limits not maintained by the City

Documented for maintenance:

- Purple Sage Area – Private, 2.4 miles – 4.8 lane miles.
- Rain Valley Road – Private HOA maintained
- S. Fourth Street and Monroe
- Herold Ranch Road, and YX Ranch Road
- Historical request to maintain Woody Mountain Road to Arboretum – Forest Service Road



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Discussion



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