

19Jun09

Dear Mayor Wilson,

Timing is everything, and the time is now! The proposed purchase of the Beurie property is important to the future of the City of Prescott for a number of reasons: enhanced protection of Willow Lake, completion of the trail around the lake, connectivity to other trails, a cooperative and willing seller, available funds, and a fair price. The purchase is in alignment with the council adopted Open Space Policy major criteria:

1. **AESTHETICS:** Unique or dramatic visual impact; protects scenic view corridor; visually enhances primary transportation corridor; unique view from site; natural features that enhance quality of life (e.g., rock formation, body of water, trees).
2. **PROTECTION AND PRESERVATION:** Protection of environmentally sensitive features (e.g., wetlands, native vegetation, wildlife, floodplain encroachment).
3. **USE POTENTIAL:** Ability of the land to be used for passive recreational purposes including trail linkages, outdoor recreation, ecotourism, rock climbing, etc. Potential secondary benefits to the community would include watershed protection, drainage or regional retention areas, noise buffer, and continued agricultural production.
4. **LOCATION:** Enhances spatial definition of urban area; protects remaining undeveloped land within large developed area of City; expands the distribution of open space across the City; provides key link or extension/addition to existing park/open space area; provides added open space in proximity to existing or proposed urban development; improves overall access to open space.

5. NEED FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION: Development pressure; development status; potential to remain as open space; attitude of property owner.
6. ACQUISITION CONSIDERATION: Availability of land; ease of acquisition; price of land; significance of economic loss to City; potential for increase in price in the near future; potential for acquiring other sources of funds

At the monthly OSA meeting on June 17th, the council unanimously endorsed the purchase do the Beurie property. Willow Lake, the tremendous asset that the City of Prescott already owns, could be further enjoyed by citizens of Prescott as well as a destination for tourists.

Looking Forward,

Thomas L. Pettit, Ph.D., President

The Open Space Alliance of Central Yavapai County is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization.

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