

### **Introductory Note**

Beginning in January 1996, the greater Flagstaff community embarked on an 18-month visioning process known as *Flagstaff 2020* to develop a shared vision of what we would like our community to become in the following 20-25 years. From the perspective of 2009, 12 years after the creation of *Flagstaff 2020*, it remains a valid document generally accepted by the community and expressing the future desired by Flagstaff's residents. The goals of *Flagstaff 2020* remain the foundation of the Flagstaff Regional Plan. It is not the intent of the following *Flagstaff Regional Plan Vision Statement* to replace the vision of *Flagstaff 2020*, but rather to draw from it to create a complementary statement in support of the 2012 update of the Flagstaff Regional Plan.

### **Community Character and Values**

IN THE YEAR 2020, Flagstaff is a small city in an incredible setting. Situated in the heart of the Coconino National Forest, Flagstaff offers residents and visitors a quality of life unmatched in the Southwest. Public lands surrounding the community provide some natural limits to sprawl and at the same time provide unparalleled access to some of the most exceptional wildlands, forests, parks, and recreation areas in the state. Flagstaff remains small enough to maintain the charm and friendliness of a small town yet large enough to offer a rich assortment of art, culture, science, and community events. We take pride in our community as a clean, safe, and healthy place for raising families, enjoying friends, participating in community life, and enjoying nature. A highly diverse community comprised of people of different ages, races, cultures, and backgrounds, we appreciate and respect one another and take pride in our history and cultural heritage. A variety of options exist to accommodate different lifestyle choices ranging from historic districts to compact urban neighborhoods to rural country living. As a highly desirable location in a beautiful environment, Flagstaff attracts people that tend to appreciate it for its unique qualities and actively work to preserve and enhance those qualities over time.

### **Environmental Quality**

The natural environment is highly valued by Flagstaff residents not only for its scenic and recreational value, but also because we recognize that a healthy environment is essential to a healthy human community. Flagstaff was founded on its environmental attributes, and we actively work to preserve and restore the health of our forests, grasslands, water resources, and wildlife habitats. Access to the national forest and numerous parks and recreation areas promotes an active lifestyle. We give back to the environment by participating in agency land planning and management processes and volunteer groups. We continually appreciate the value of our clean air and water and take actions necessary to conserve resources for future generations. Flagstaff's star-filled night sky is a unique part of our environmental heritage and the entire community remains committed to its protection.

### **Growth, Development & Transportation**

Growth and development occurs in Flagstaff in a manner that is sensitive to existing neighborhood and community character, respects history and heritage, and enhances our unique local attributes. We enjoy a safe and efficient transportation system that includes multiple options for getting around town and connecting to outlying communities. Various activity centers serve as focal points for commercial and social interaction. Mixed-use neighborhoods provide opportunities to blend jobs, housing, and services with a balanced transportation system. Multiple options exist for pedestrians, bicyclists, and public transit, as well as a safe and efficient

street system. Residents are conscious of the environmental consequences of our transportation choices, and we prefer those options that minimize emissions and maximize energy conservation. Compact urban development is the norm in the city and rural character is maintained in the county areas.

### **Sustainability**

The concept of sustainability is widely accepted in Flagstaff recognizing that it involves, in broad terms, the ability of a community to meet its needs currently without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs. We consider sustainability when addressing our needs for energy, water, food, shelter, and other elements essential to human life. Renewable energy systems are increasingly used to reduce our reliance on fossil fuels. We recognize that sustainability encompasses both human and natural systems, and is linked to economic, social, cultural, and ecological resilience. We take great care to ensure that our present actions do not threaten our community's future prosperity or deplete our natural and cultural resources. Flagstaff embraces sustainable development that promotes and enhances the capacity of all residents' access to affordable housing, living wages, and basic human services.