



Museum Fire Flood Projects

February 1, 2023

Welcome to the City of Flagstaff's Museum Fire Flood Projects eNews. Please email info@museumfloodprojects.com with any questions. These eNews will be released regularly to provide updates on all the City's Museum Fire Flood Projects.

BACKGROUND

On July 21, 2019, the Museum Fire broke out in the Dry Lake Hills area just north of Flagstaff within the Coconino National Forest. The fire ultimately charred 1,961 acres, including a significant portion of the Spruce Wash Watershed. Flood modeling subsequently showed potential flood risk to neighborhoods in Coconino County and the City of Flagstaff. Both the City of Flagstaff and Coconino County Flood Control District immediately took extensive measures and precautions to mitigate damage from flood events.

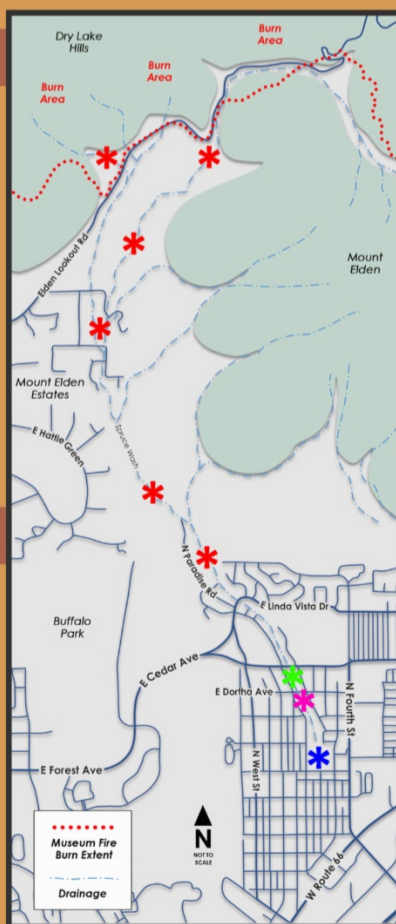
Throughout the summer of 2021, unprecedented rain events impacted the Museum Fire burn scar and caused multiple rounds of flash flooding in Flagstaff neighborhoods. The City of Flagstaff continues to collaborate with both the public and private partners to lessen the impact of flooding in the affected Flagstaff neighborhoods.

UPDATED FLOOD RISK ASSESSMENT MAP

JE Fuller Hydrology and Geomorphology has updated the previous flood risk assessment map that is designed to show the areas that could be impacted by post-wildfire flooding in the Spruce Wash. To create this updated map, JE Fuller utilized data from soil conditions as of November 2022, approximately 3.5 years after the Museum Fire took place. Such data captures any change or recovery in the watershed that has taken place. The updated flood risk assessment map also includes all long-term mitigation projects completed to date, including the on-forest alluvial fans, the Cedar to Dortha Channel Improvements and the Killip School Regional Detention Basins.

The map models potential water flows after a rain event in which 2" of precipitation falls in the Spruce Wash Watershed, which includes the Museum Fire scar over a period of 45 minutes. The flood risk assessment map shows the inundation limits of a specific storm and has been prepared utilizing the best available data. However, unpredictable changes may occur in the flow patterns and channels with variable rainfall patterns and as watershed conditions constantly change due to levels of saturation, debris, sediment impacts, and other factors. As such, it is very important to note that these changes could impact the modeling results used to prepare the map.

Lastly, please keep in mind that significant flood risk remains in the Spruce Wash. The full map can be viewed [here](#).



Stay Connected

Electronic Newsletters

The City will send out electronic newsletters (such as these) on a regular basis as these projects progress.

To receive eNewsletters, as well as notifications of Museum Flood Project updates scheduled at City Council meetings, send a request to: info@museumfloodprojects.com.

Additional questions?

Please email: info@museumfloodprojects.com
Sarah Langley
Public Affairs Director
(928) 853-5596
City of Flagstaff

Key Flood Projects

Key projects are identified by the corresponding colored asterisk on the map to the left:

- * Alluvial Fan Restoration and Sediment Reduction (Led by the Coconino County Flood Control District)
- * Spruce Wash Channel Improvements Project (Cedar Avenue to Dortha Avenue)
- * Spruce Wash Channel Improvements Project (Dortha Avenue Inlet)
- * Killip School Regional Detention Basins Project

[Click here to view a larger version of this map.](#)



For more information on these projects and important resources, visit museumfloodprojects.com