

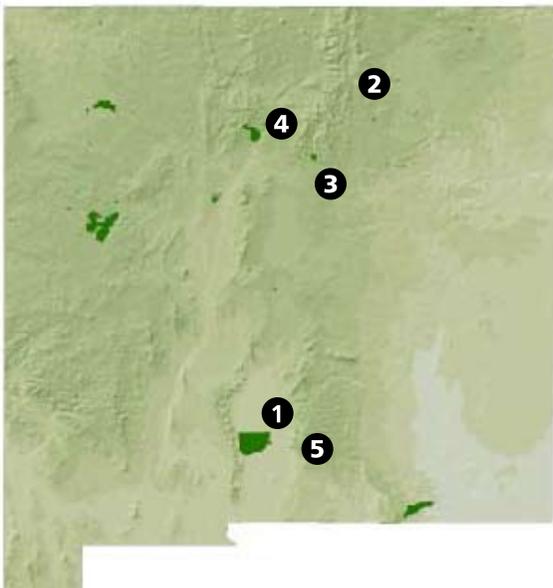


New Mexico News



Albuquerque Prescription Trails Kickoff event

PROJECTS AND PARTNERS 2009



- 1. Healing Waters Trail**
Sierra Soil and Water Conservation District, City of Truth or Consequences
- 2. Northern Rio Grande National Heritage Area**
Northern Rio Grande National Heritage Area, Inc.
- 3. Petroglyph National Monument**
Petroglyph National Monument, City of Albuquerque
- 4. Step into Cuba**
Nacimiento Medical Foundation, Village of Cuba
- 5. New Mexico Rio Grande Trail**
New Mexico State Parks Division

Recent Successes

A Fast Pace for Rx Trails in Albuquerque!

RTCA, the Albuquerque Alliance for Active Living, NM Takes on Diabetes Coalition, NM Department of Health and other health partners along with the Mayor of Albuquerque kicked off the Rx Trails project on 34 trails and paths. This project, led by health partners aims to identify walking path resources throughout the Albuquerque metropolitan area for physicians who will in-turn prescribe physical activity for their patients.

“RTCA has been an invaluable partner in the creation of the Prescription Trails project. The expertise brought to the table by RTCA has allowed the project to enjoy a hugely successful debut.”

- Duane Ross, MD
Medical Director, Government Programs
Blue Cross Blue Shield of NM

Health care practitioners are continually looking for new tools to combat the health effects of physical activity. The Rx Trails Guide features 34 routes 1/4 to 1/2 miles in length geographically distributed by zip code. Trails feature universal accessibility, transit connections, and improved directional and informational signage along the routes.

Recent successes include a website that garnered 18,000 hits within two months, grant funding for project development, evaluation and guide expansion from NM Department of Health, Cardinal

Current Projects

1. Healing Waters Trail

Location: Truth or Consequences
Lead Partners: Sierra Soil and Water Conservation District, City of Truth or Consequences
RTCA Contact: Attila Bality
505.988.6092 attila_bality@nps.gov

Project Goal

Health and wellness of the people and the river corridor is paramount in the development of a three mile loop trail in and around the City of Truth or Consequences. Trail features will include the historic bathhouse district, restored wetlands along the Rio Grande, and new trail connections to Veterans Memorial Park. Connections to the regional Rio Grande Trail are also anticipated.

RTCA Role

RTCA is supporting the Healing Waters Trails Steering Committee with walkability audits in the historic district, route identification and evaluation along the Rio Grande. RTCA is also providing technical assistance with a cultural landscape report for the Historic Hot Mineral Springs Bathhouse District.

2. Northern Rio Grande National Heritage Area

Location: North Central New Mexico – Santa Fe, Espanola, Taos
Lead Partner: Northern Rio Grande National Heritage Area, Inc.
RTCA Contact: Attila Bality
505.988.6092 attila_bality@nps.gov

Project Goal

Established in 2006, the Northern Rio Grande National Heritage Area, Inc., a non-profit corporation is beginning



Healing Waters Trail walkability audit

to think about strategies to celebrate, preserve and protect the serene landscape and the historical, social, and cultural characteristics of the Indian, Spanish and Anglo communities of Rio Arriba, Santa Fe and Taos Counties. The first step is to develop a Management Plan that includes promoting partnerships, supporting community stewardship and engaging youth in their land and cultural heritage.

RTCA Role

RTCA will take the lead role in organizing public involvement strategies for developing the strategies and actions necessary to protect and interpret the historical, cultural and natural resources of the Heritage Area.

3. Petroglyph National Monument Neighborhood Trails & Access

Location: Albuquerque, NM
Lead Partners: Petroglyph National Monument, City of Albuquerque
RTCA Contact: Attila Bality
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Project Goal

The National Park Service and the City of Albuquerque are coordinating efforts to address trails and visitor use in the Monument and adjacent City Open Space lands. As residential development creeps closer to the park boundaries, managers are being proactive in addressing increased recreation trail use demands. Dog walking, mountain bicycling, running are uses that have to be managed. This project intends to address recreational use that is compatible with the Monument's purposes – preservation of the escarpment and related cultural landscape.

RTCA Role

Coordinate public involvement and outreach for trails planning. RTCA has provided technical assistance in trail data collection and is also working with developers to identify trailhead locations and other park access points.

“Without RTCA we would still be flailing about trying to figure out how to make this trail a reality. RTCA has kept us on track and focused throughout the entire planning phase of our Trail.”

- Gina Kelly, Director of Tourism, Sierra County Recreation and Tourism Advisory Board



Las Trampas Church

We're Here For You.

Could your project could benefit from RTCA Staff Assistance?
Contact us to find out.

Attila Bality

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THE RTCA PROGRAM

The Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) Program is the community assistance arm of the National Park Service. RTCA staff provides technical assistance to community groups and local, state, and federal government agencies working to protect natural areas and water resources and enhance close-to-home outdoor recreation opportunities. We help communities plan, organize partnerships, and achieve on-the-ground success on projects they initiate.

Find more information online at

www.nps.gov/rtca



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Current Projects cont.

4. Step Into Cuba

Location: Village of Cuba

Lead Partners: Nacimiento Medical Foundation, Village of Cuba

RTCA Contact: Attila Bality

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Project Goal

Step Into Cuba is an ambitious effort to use the area's remarkable natural environment to create walkways and trails, encourage and engage individuals and organizations in a shared goal of healthy exercise, develop and improve St. Francis of Assisi Park as a central trailhead and recreation destination. Trail linkages from town to the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail are also being planned.

RTCA Role

RTCA is developing a process for public input and guidance on Cuba area walking and hiking resources as well as engaging Federal, State, County and Village partners in creation of a trails plan. RTCA will help local partners explore creation of a Youth Corps to support trail related projects.

5. New Mexico Rio Grande Trail

Location: Along the Rio Grande River from Belen to Sunland Park, NM

Lead Partner: New Mexico State Parks Division

RTCA Contact: Alan Ragins

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Project Goal

An ambitious endeavor to connect communities, recreation areas, wildlife habitat, and cultural sites along New Mexico's most vital resource, the Rio Grande. NM State Parks Division initial focus is to support and connect local initiatives to create multi-use trails along a 200-mile stretch of the Rio Grande from Belen to Sunland Park, NM.

RTCA Role

RTCA is helping to facilitate the organization and strategic planning of an inter-agency Coordinating Council. Regional planning and implementation groups have been formed for specific trail segments, which will work to plan, develop, and manage the trail and help to coordinate broader public participation strategies.



Scouting the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail route

Recent Successes cont.

Health and Con Alma Health Foundations has been awarded. Within two years this health and recreation partnership has created even better opportunities – Albuquerque Parks and Recreation is exploring adding a health consultant to their Parks

and Recreation Advisory Board; and the City of Santa Fe has initiated an Rx Trails project as well.

RTCA provided leadership to the Project Team and led efforts to evaluate Rx Trails

and develop the Guide. RTCA continues to support the Rx Trails project in its current evaluation phase and working with the City of Albuquerque to implement physical improvements on the routes.