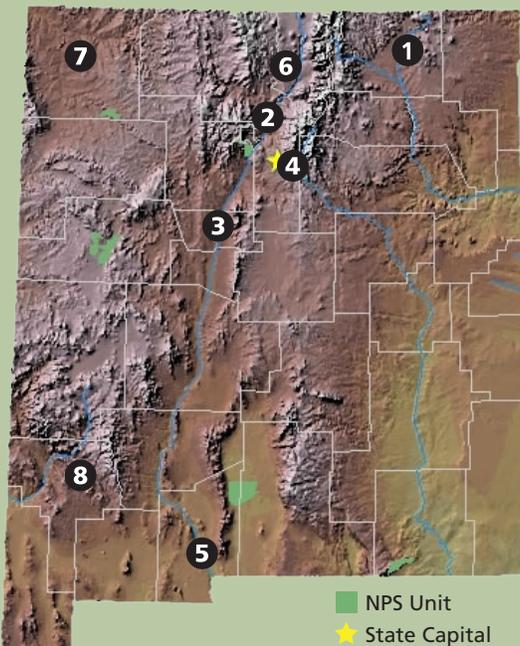




New Mexico News

Paseo del Bosque Trail. Photo: NPS

PROJECTS AND PARTNERS 2015



CURRENT PROJECTS

1. Raton Trails, Open Space, and Recreation
2. Bandelier-Los Alamos Trail Loop
3. More Kids in the Winter Woods ALBUQUERQUE
4. Santa Fe Grand Unified Trail System
5. Take It Outside NM
6. Arroyo Seco to Taos Trail Connection
7. Four Corners Paddle Trails
8. Silver City Gateway Trail

Find out more about each project starting on page 2.

Recent Successes

New Mexico Prescription Trails

Starting as an idea in Albuquerque to get more people to city and county parks on existing, well designed trails, the New Mexico Prescription Trails (Rx Trails) program continues to grow across the state. Rx Trails are more than just another local trail guide—they are designed as a tool for health care practitioners to encourage their patients to get outside at safe and enjoyable parks close to home.

New ideas are emerging for bringing Rx Trails to the workplace. Championed by the Albuquerque Public Schools Wellness Committee, the school district intends to establish safe walking routes at many of its facilities for students, faculty, and staff. They will pilot test Rx Trails at their administrative complex, a community sports stadium, and several schools this year. The National Park Service conducted trails assessment training for wellness committee members who will train school based staff.

The Presbyterian Hospital system and Presbyterian Health Plan have established safe walking routes for staff, patients, and their families at seven of their facilities statewide.

Additionally, Presbyterian Hospital through its Community Health Implementation plan set a goal to: **Increase opportunities for residents of the Central New Mexico region to be physically active.**

ABOUT US

The Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance program is the community assistance arm of the National Park Service. Program staff provide 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.

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Recent Successes cont.

Key interventions that support Rx Trails:

- Adopt-A-Park programs for communities with disparities in health outcomes related to physical activity.
- Creating avenues for the Presbyterian Hospital workforce to volunteer and support healthy activities through Rx Trails.
- Promoting awareness of Rx Trails to the community through engaged and educated physicians and staff.
- Developing Rx Trails systemwide where they are not present.

For the past five years, University of New Mexico medical students have helped communities assess trail networks suitable for prescription trails. Students completed these assignments as part of their public health service project. One student involved in Students in Medicine for Resources in Technology (SMRT) developed a free Albuquerque Prescription Trails app available through iTunes.

Silver City Connects to Continental Divide Trail

Silver City, New Mexico's regional trails and the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail (CDT) are world-class but underused outdoor recreation opportunities—but that is changing. On April 23, three great things happened:

- Silver City became the first officially designated “Gateway Community” to the trail.
- Eight military veterans walked into town during their 3,100-mile CDT Warrior Hike to help celebrate the dedication.
- Aldo Leopold Charter High School Youth Conservation Corps members presented their stewardship efforts of the CDT and other trails in Silver City.



Silver City Gateway Community dedication.
Photo: Adrienne Booth

More than 120 people attended the celebration, including Martin Heinrich, a U.S. Senator from New Mexico, who praised the partnership between the town and the Continental Divide Trail Coalition (CDTC). Senator Tom Udall also sent his support and New Mexico State Senator Howie Morales encouraged the effort to build and connect regional trails. Silver City Mayor Mike Morones unveiled the new Gateway Community sign. Bella Bjornstad, a high school junior, talked about her experience as a trail steward and mentor to younger students as they learn to love trails.

Developing a 7-mile connector trail to the Gila National Forest and the CDT is one of the priorities identified in Silver City's Greenways Master Plan.

The National Park Service has worked with a coalition of local trails advocates, health care representatives, historic and cultural groups, the town, county, state, and federal agencies to set goals and priorities, convene key groups to craft an overall vision, and identify steps to put the plan into action. The trail will help to provide safe recreation and transportation opportunities, support community health goals, and promote Silver City as a destination for visitors both from home and abroad.

Aztec North Main Trail

On November 1, 2014, the National Park Service, the City of Aztec, and friends celebrated the grand opening of the new pedestrian bridge connecting “old” Aztec to “new” Aztec.

A combination of funding sources—the New Mexico Surface Transportation Improvement Program, a Paul S. Sarbanes Transit in Parks grant, a National Park Service Connecting Trails to Parks grant and the City of Aztec—leveraged \$2,500,000 in funds for the bridge and trail connections.

New Mexico Recreational Trails Program Reestablished at New Mexico Department of Transportation

The New Mexico Department of Transportation (NMDOT) is pleased to take over administration of the Recreational Trails Program (RTP), providing access to funding for quality, diverse recreational trail projects that will improve the quality of life for New Mexicans all across the state. NMDOT is bringing the program in line with federal and state processes while honoring the hard work of those who contributed to the program's administration in the past. NMDOT is placing a greater emphasis on recreational trail projects that encourage community buy-in through planning processes and partnerships, and achieve multiple goals at the local, regional and statewide levels. For more information, please contact the RTP Coordinator, Aaron Detter by email at aaron.detter@state.nm.u

Current Projects.

1. Raton Trails, Open Space, and Recreation

Project Partner: Grow Raton!
Beautification and Pride Task Force
NPS Contact: Hugh Osborne
Location: Raton
Congressional District: NM - 3

Project Goal

Develop a management plan for the Climax Canyon Park and its associated Nature Trail in order to ensure the sustainable and enjoyable use of this resource at the edge of town.

NPS Role

Bring together the various stakeholders and potential trail users to develop agreement on the appropriate use of the trail and the park. NPS staff has conducted a number of public meetings and is helping coordinate the drafting of the final management plan for the park.

2. Bandelier-Los Alamos Trail Loop

Project Partner: Bandelier National Monument
NPS Contact: Attila Bality
Location: Los Alamos
Congressional District: NM - 3

Project Goal

Develop a 30-mile loop of mixed off-road and road shoulder routes that will be available for walking, bicycling, cross-country skiing, in line skating, and distance running. The trail will connect Los Alamos, White Rock, and San Ildefonso Pueblo to Bandelier National Monument, Santa Fe National Forest, and Los Alamos National Laboratories.

NPS Role

Support Bandelier National Monument in engaging partners and stakeholders to determine the lead partners for planning and compliance. Identify feasible alignments for the multiuse path.

3. More Kids in the Winter Woods ALBUQUERQUE

Project Partner: Talking Talons Youth Leadership Inc., Cibola National Forest
NPS Contact: Attila Bality
Location: Albuquerque
Congressional District: NM - 1

Project Goal

Increase winter recreational access and opportunities for Albuquerque area youth in the Sandia Mountains. Develop and host winter festivals featuring environmental education and winter activities like sledding, cross-country skiing, and snowshoeing.

NPS Role

Work with Talking Talons Youth Leadership Inc. to develop a community outreach process to convene diverse partners for the winter recreation collaborative. Focus on reaching nontraditional urban partners to deliver youth focused winter recreation programs and education.

4. Santa Fe Grand Unified Trail System

Project Partner: Santa Fe Fat Tire Society, Santa Fe Conservation Trust
NPS Contact: Attila Bality
Location: Santa Fe,
Congressional District: NM - 3

Project Goal

The Santa Fe Grand Unified Trail System (SFe GUTS) is an integrated trail system in and around the Santa Fe area. The SFe GUTS project connects and encompasses existing trail networks surrounding Santa Fe including La Tierra, Dale Ball, Arroyo Hondo, and Galisteo Basin Preserve.

NPS Role

Partner with the Santa Fe Fat Tire Society and the Santa Fe Conservation Trust to develop a Concept and Implementation Strategy Plan for the Grand Unified Trail System. Introduce a Parks, Trails, & Health evaluation process to assess community health and recreation priorities.

5. Take It Outside NM

Project Partner: New Mexico Department of Health, Lincoln National Forest
NPS Contact: Attila Bality
Location: Alamogordo and Las Cruces
Congressional District: NM - 2

Project Goal

Strengthen partnerships with schools and youth-serving organizations. Increase youth participation and programs focused on outdoor recreation and service learning offered on public lands, including White Sands National Monument.

NPS Role

Support Take It Outside NM through a strategic planning effort focusing on sustainability planning, capacity building, and determining organizational structure. Provide assistance with inventory and mapping of community resources that could offer outdoor experiences for youth.

6. Arroyo Seco to Taos Trail Connection

Project Partner: Del Norte Trails Coalition
NPS Contact: Attila Bality
Location: Taos
Congressional District: NM - 3

Project Goal

Develop a 10-mile trail connecting the communities of Arroyo Seco and Taos Pueblo to the Town of Taos.

NPS Role

Support the Del Norte Trail Coalition through the development of civic engagement strategies that broaden the Coalition's reach. Provide technical expertise in the areas of project mapping and trail layout and design.

We're Here For You.

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



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2014 Nationwide Partnership Success

3,278.74 Miles of Trail Developed

2,046.25 Miles of River Conserved

9,411.06 Acres of Open Space and Parkland Protected

Find more information online at
www.nps.gov/rtca



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Current Projects cont.

7. Four Corners Paddle Trails

Project Partner: River Reach Foundation
NPS Contact: Attila Bality
Location: Farmington
Congressional District: NM - 3

Project Goal

Increased river recreation opportunities on sections of the Animas and San Juan Rivers in New Mexico. Improved cooperative management of river access areas, user information, and education which could lead to a National Water Trail designation.

NPS Role

Support a Four Corners Paddle Trails working committee in development of a river recreation access and management plan that follows the best management practices of National Water Trails. RTCA is providing facilitation skills, developing civic engagement strategies and technical expertise for river recreation planning.

8. Silver City Gateway Trail

Project Partner: Silver City Arts and Cultural District
NPS Contact: Cate Bradley
Location: Silver City
Congressional District: NM - 2

Project Goal

Develop a new 7-mile gateway trail connecting Silver City to the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail. Improved trailheads and trail access signage will be important amenities.

NPS Role

Assist with development of grant applications through the Recreational Trails Program and the Transportation Alternatives Program to fund trail and trailhead construction. Support project partners in creating a unifying signage plan.



New Aztec Pedestrian Bridge Ribbon Cutting. Photo: NPS