

Santa Fe County Open Space, Trails and Parks

Annual Work Plan

2025-



SANTA FE COUNTY
OPEN SPACE
TRAILS AND PARKS



2025 Work Plan

This work plan outlines the 2025 projects and priorities for the Open Space, Trails and Parks program. The work plan is organized by sections consistent with the Open Space, Trails and Parks Strategic Management Plan. Each project has an indicator icon to show progress. Highlighted projects are priorities of the County Open Lands, Trails and Parks Advisory Committee (COLTPAC) for 2025.



Not yet initiated



Planning



Mobilization



Implementation



Operations/Ongoing

Resource Management

- Begin drafting 10 Little Hills Open Space Management Plan
- Begin installing wildlife-friendly fencing at Thornton Ranch Open Space and additional open space properties as needed
- Update management plans for Los Potreros Open Space, Ortiz Mountains Open Space Forest Management Plan and expanded San Pedro Open Space
- Continue conducting baseline environmental surveys with a focus on aquatic species
- Implement erosion control measures at Thornton Ranch Open Space
- Adopt Little Tesuque Creek Open Space and Talaya Hill Open Space Management Plans
- Continue forest resiliency project at Ortiz Mountains Open Space
- Continue implementing species-related management plans (e.g. pollinator, beaver, invasive species)
- Continue preventative maintenance measures on open spaces, trails and parks
- Continue partnering with wildlife rehabilitation organizations to facilitate wildlife releases on open space properties
- Continue engaging with tribal members for the co-stewardship of Thornton Ranch Open Space
- Continue partnering with SiteWatch, a program of the NM Historic Preservation Division, to monitor culturally significant sites on open space properties

Educational Programming and Stewardship

- Explore, with COLTPAC, scaling up the volunteer program for a wider variety of activities, including researching successful models in other federal, state and local land management programs

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- 🕒 Develop and implement an interpretive ranger program for at least one open space
- 🕒 Facilitate 2025 Northern New Mexico Master Naturalist course in partnership with Randall Davey Audubon Center & Sanctuary and Santa Fe Botanical Garden
- 🕒 Continue designing and installing signage at open spaces and trails as needed, including educational, wayfinding, safety, regulatory and interpretive signage, with a focus on Arroyo Hondo Open Space, Chili Line, Rail Trail and El Camino Real Trail
- 🕒 Create a brochure to increase awareness and communication about the Open Space, Trails and Parks Program to the public
- 🕒 Continue partnering with volunteers and youth organizations to assist with the stewardship of open space properties

Project Development and Implementation

- 🕒 If acquisition is approved by the Board of County Commissioners, acquire Bobcat Crossing Ranch for use as a new open space property
- 🕒 Begin design and seek funding for construction of Santa Fe River Greenway Trail from Caja del Oro Grant Road to Cottonwood Drive
- 🕒 Begin design and seek funding for construction of Rail Trail from US 285 to Lamy
- 🕒 Begin design and seek funding for construction of Romero Park Phase III, which includes multi-purpose fields, baseball fields, a skate park and additional pickleball courts
- 🕒 Begin design and seek funding for construction of Arroyo Hondo Trail from NM 14 to NM 599 Rail Runner train station
- 🕒 Begin community outreach and planning for Madrid Walk
- 🕒 Continue planning for the development of trails in San Pedro Open Space
- 🕒 Continue community planning process in Rio en Medio to explore options for public trail access
- 🕒 Support the planning of the Rio Grande Trail through Santa Fe County with the NM Outdoor Recreation Division
- 🕒 Begin construction of the Turquoise Trail Extension, a 1.5-mile shared-use trail extending from Rancho Viejo Boulevard to the NM 599 Rail Runner train station
- 🕒 Coordinate with BLM to complete the Environmental Assessment for the Thornton Ranch Open Space trails project

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- Complete design and seek funding for construction of Avenida Azul Trail
- Begin construction of Arroyo Hondo Trail from Turquoise Trail Subdivision to Velocity Way
- Begin construction of Rail Trail from Spur Ranch Road to US 285 and a new trailhead off of US 285
- Complete design and begin construction of porous road at Los Potreros Open Space to enhance wetland connectivity
- Implement trail reroute and erosion control measures at Little Tesuque Creek Open Space
- Begin implementing floodplain restoration project at Rio en Medio Open Space
- Remove and restore legacy illegal tire dump site in the Santa Fe River Greenway
- Complete construction of Santa Fe River Greenway Trail from Siler Road to San Ysidro Crossing
- Coordinate with NMDOT to repair eroding road shoulder at Little Tesuque Creek Open Space trailhead

Planning and Program Development

- Begin developing a strategic plan for future trail and open space acquisitions that includes elements such as connectivity between existing trails, wildlife habitat conservation and equity
- Explore, with COLTPAC, additional staffing needs and funding mechanisms to meet growth in the Open Space, Trails and Parks Program's management responsibilities
- Begin developing long-range interpretive and resource protection plans for the Open Space Ranger program
- Revise the open space property acquisition process and align the process with capital planning and budget cycles
- Create a transparent procedure for the disposition of open space properties
- Modernize the rules and regulations on County open spaces, trails and parks
- Continue conserving open space properties through the transfer of development rights program