

Santa Fe County Open Space, Trails and Parks Strategic Management Plan

Strategic Plan

GOAL: PRESERVE, PROTECT AND RESTORE SANTA FE COUNTY OPEN SPACE PROPERTIES

POLICY 1: MANAGEMENT

The County will manage open space, trails, and park properties in accordance with best management practices to preserve, protect and restore environmental, cultural and significant resources of each property.

POLICY 2: PARTNERSHIPS

The County will foster partnerships with public and private entities to support environmental protection and conservation to enhance stewardship, education, and user experience of open space, trails, and park properties. These partnerships will assist the County to maintain the cultural integrity and enhance those special qualities for which they were purchased.

POLICY 3: ACCESS

The County will provide access as appropriate for users to better experience open space, trails, and parks. The use of better information sharing and technology will enhance user access on existing properties and trails.



STRATEGY 1.1:
Santa Fe County will develop best management practices for maintenance of open space, trails, and park properties to protect natural, cultural and historical resources, and community values.

- Ecological conditions including grasslands, forests, riparian areas, environmental, plant and animal species
- Cultural preservation procedures
- Trail building
- Project permitting process



STRATEGY 1.2:
County Open Space, Trail and Park properties will have planning elements to provide baseline data that include:

- Management plan
- Characterization Preservation Report
- Ecological Assessment to include species identification of plants and animals
- Baseline Environmental Conditions
- Mineral Survey
- Hazard Assessment to include fuel load/fire
- Monitoring Plan



STRATEGY 1.3:
Open Space staff will be trained in accordance with best management practice annually. Best management practices will distinguish between open spaces, trails and parks as these facilities require different types of care.



STRATEGY 1.4:
Project implementation will include interdepartmental and interagency coordination to establish project scope and cost.



STRATEGY 1.5:
Management impacts will be monitored and practices will be adjusted as appropriate.



STRATEGY 1.6:
Develop and expand internal staff capacity and expertise for cultural, environmental and educational resource management.



STRATEGY 1.7:
Future land acquisition may be considered if the property helps facilitate access to public lands, eases management constraints of existing property, and provides cost benefit to the Open Space program.



STRATEGY 2.1:
Develop a checklist of stewardship goals and partners for each open space, trail, and park property.



STRATEGY 2.2:
Develop educational programs with partners that enrich outdoor experiences, promote environmental protection and conservation, and encourage lifelong appreciation of the natural environment.



STRATEGY 2.3:
Develop a robust volunteer program that includes a certification program for trail building and repair, interpretive and educational practices, safety and environmental best practices.



STRATEGY 3.1:
Identify the appropriate kind of access for each County open space, trail, and park property.



STRATEGY 3.2:
Partner with public and private entities to prioritize and develop trail connections to link Santa Fe County Open Space, Trails and Parks to nearby public lands to create long distance multi-use options.



STRATEGY 3.3:
Improve the Open Space, Trails and Parks webpage to include better information related to property access, events, and educational and volunteer opportunities.



STRATEGY 3.4:
Coordinate with County Emergency Services to provide emergency protocol.



STRATEGY 3.5:
Support the ability of Indigenous Peoples to use the natural and cultural resources of County open spaces for ceremonial, religious, and other cultural uses.