

SANTA FE COUNTY

Resolution No. 2003 - 63

2523299

A Resolution Adopting the Cerrillos Hills Historic Park Management Plan.

WHEREAS, voters in Santa Fe County approved General Obligation Bonds establishing funding for the "Wildlife, Mountains, Trails and Historic Places Program," ("Program") on November 3, 1998 and November 7, 2000; and

WHEREAS, the County adopted the Open Land and Trails Plan for the Wildlife, Mountains, Trails and Historic Places Program via Resolution No. 2000-60 on May 22, 2000; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners ("BCC") approved and County staff have completed acquisition of approximately 1,116 acres of Land known as the Cerrillos Hills Historic Park located just North of the Village of Cerrillos in Santa Fe County, NM; and

WHEREAS, the BCC has directed staff to develop management plans for open space and trails properties acquired as part of the County's Open Space Trails Program; and

WHEREAS, Santa Fe County staff have developed working guidelines for the objectives and goals of the Cerrillos Hills Historic Park Management Plan, attached hereto as Exhibit A and which may be amended from time to time; and

WHEREAS, the BCC recognizes and acknowledges that this management plan is a continually evolving undertaking and that these guidelines, objectives and goals may be amended from time to time as management of the Cerrillos Hills Historic Park develops and evolves; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Santa Fe County that:

The Board of County Commissioners of Santa Fe County hereby adopt the working guidelines for the Cerrillos Hills Historic Park Management Plan attached as Exhibit A with all guidelines, objectives and goals as amended from time to time and as management of the Cerrillos Hills Historic Park develops and evolves.



COUNTY OF SANTA FE
STATE OF NEW MEXICO / 265 ss 490
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS INSTRUMENT WAS FILED
FOR RECORD ON THE 14 DAY OF MAY A.D.
20 03 AT 9:50 O'CLOCK PM
AND WAS DULY RECORDED IN BOOK 2523
PAGE 299-327 OF THE RECORDS OF
SANTA FE COUNTY
WITNESS MY HAND AND SEAL OF OFFICE
REBECCA BUSTAMANTE
COUNTY CLERK, SANTA FE COUNTY, N.M.

Marcella Valdez
DEPUTY

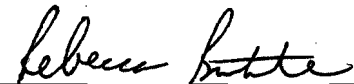
PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 29 of April, 2003.

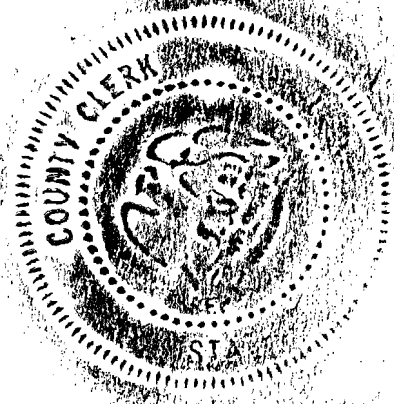
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BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

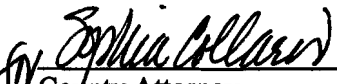

Jack Sullivan, Chairman

ATTEST:


Rebecca Bustamante
County Clerk



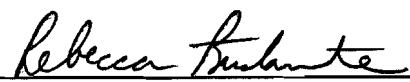
Approved As to Form:


County Attorney

CERTIFICATE OF FILING

I, Rebecca Bustamante, County Clerk, do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution, designated as Resolution No. 2003- 63 was filed in my office on the 14 day of MAY, 2003, in book Number _____ at Pages _____.

SANTA FE COUNTY CLERK


Rebecca Bustamante

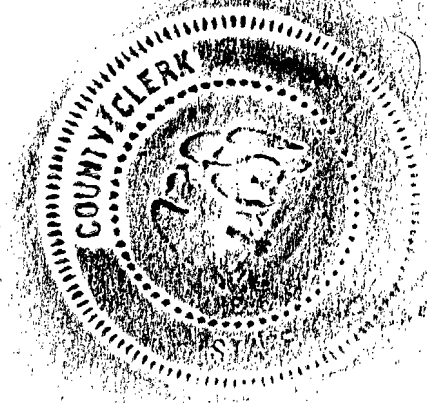


Exhibit A
Preliminary Working Guidelines for the
Cerrillos Hills Historic Park (CHHP) Management Plan

2523301

Preliminary Working Guidelines for the Cerrillos Hills Historic Park (CHHP) Management Plan

Executive Summary

2523302

Background

The Cerrillos Hills Historic Park is a 1,116 acre open space area located a half mile north of the Village of Cerrillos off NM Highway 14. The Park was purchased by Santa Fe County in 1999 as part of the county open space system. The area has a rich tri-cultural mining heritage; evidence of which exists to this day. In addition, the area has enormous potential for low impact recreation, educational activities and conservation and ecological restoration opportunities. Its proximity to the Santa Fe metropolitan area and location along the Turquoise Trail make the area accessible to residents of Santa Fe County and New Mexico.

Plan Goal

The goal of the plan is to provide a document that will facilitate public use of the park in a safe and enjoyable manner while protecting the unique cultural and natural resources of the area. Public use entails low-impact recreation and educational activities that connect users to the land and its history. This management plan provides working guidelines for effective management of the Cerrillos Hills Historic Park.

Planning Process

The planning process began four years ago soon after the purchase of the park. Planning for the park has always been a community oriented process, gathering input from interested public and adjacent landowners. In preparation for the plan's approval by the Board of County Commissioners and the impending opening date, a planning team was formed to compile and finalize the management plan. This process began six months ago

Management Objectives

Based on the overall goals of the Santa Fe County Open Lands and Trails Program, specific opportunities and issues identified by the Cerrillos Hills Historic Park planning team, and consultations with interested public, the following management objectives have been defined for the park:

1. Design and Install Appropriate Park Improvements – provide trails and other limited improvements that will support a quality visitor experience and park management while largely maintaining the undeveloped character of the park.
2. Protect Sensitive Resources – achieve sufficient understanding of the park's resources to effectively protect significant natural and cultural features.
3. Improve Environmental Quality – restore and protect a representative portion of the Cerrillos Hills ecosystems.

4. Safely Accommodate Multiple Uses – support diverse recreational and educational activities while minimizing user conflicts and other safety hazards.
5. Support Local Business Opportunities – promote sustainable park-based activities that benefit local businesses.
6. Provide Educational Experiences – promote diverse experiential learning opportunities as a part of all park visits.
7. Cooperate With Adjacent Land Owners/Managers – minimize negative impacts to neighboring landowners and promote opportunities for collaboration.
8. Sustain Long-term Stewardship – develop management partnerships and funding strategies that address long-term stewardship needs.

Management Units

In order to effectively manage the parks and meet the objectives listed above the park area is divided into the four general management units described below. Management units are park areas defined with specific management needs, projected uses and facilities and recommended actions and monitoring programs.

- Visitor Units – concentrated visitor use, emphasis on information/education and accessibility.

Facilities

Trailhead/parking lot

Education areas

Overlooks

Priority Goals

Trailhead improvements

Monitoring & maintenance

Mine treatments

Educational Activities and signs

- Trail Units – Access routes into the park

Facilities

Accessible and primary (heavy use)

Backcountry (registered use)

Special use (use by permit)

Priority Goals

Construct and Maintain Accessible Trail

Construct, Repair, Monitor, and Maintain Primary Trail

Install and Maintain Trail Signs

Organize Paid Trail Crew and Volunteer Stewards

- Conservation Units – four identified spring restoration areas
- Buffer Units – non developed areas between management zones or facilities and adjacent private land

- Preserve – remaining lands with resource protection emphasis and use by permit only

Priority Goals (for all three above)

Habitat Improvement

Plantings and Boundary Markers to Reduce Impacts

Monitoring, Research and Educational Programs

2523304

General Management Goals (non unit specific)

- Volunteer Coordination
- Administer Permits (Commercial and Special Use)
- Develop and Distribute Informational Materials
- Archeological Site Monitoring
- Install Signs, Fences, and Gates at Access Points
- Law Enforcement and Emergency Response

Management Partners

The CHHP is a designated County Open Space area and the County is responsible for the management and operation of the park. In order to assist and create an effective management structure and implement the various actions outlined in this plan, the County will work to develop cooperative agreements with the Cerrillos Hills Park Coalition, the BLM and other individuals and/or business, as appropriate, to conduct management activities. Additionally and as appropriate, the County may contract services for implementation and management needs.

I. Introduction

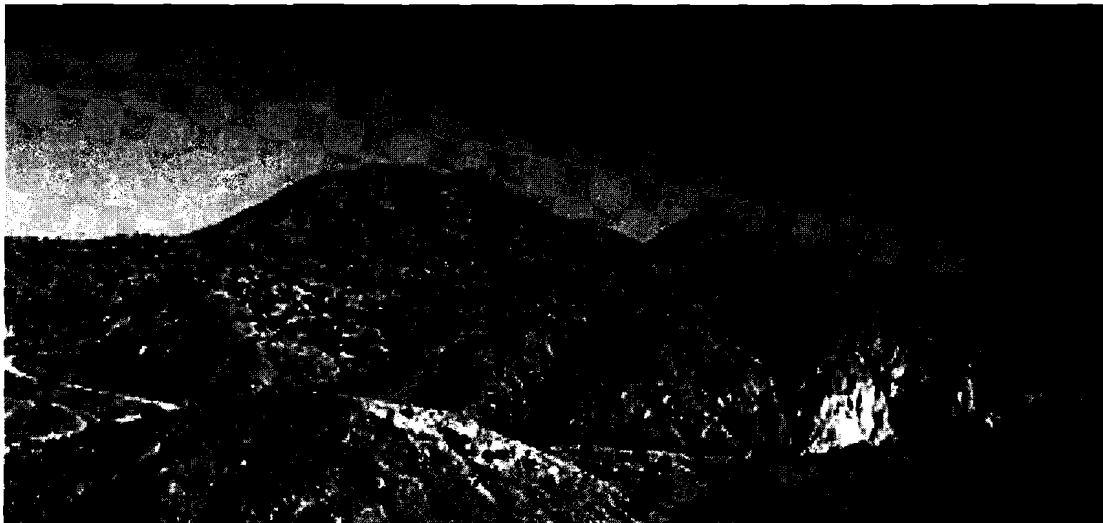
A. Purpose of the Cerrillos Hills Historic Park Management Plan

The goal of the plan is to provide a document that will facilitate public use of the park in a safe and enjoyable manner while protecting the unique cultural and natural resources of the area.

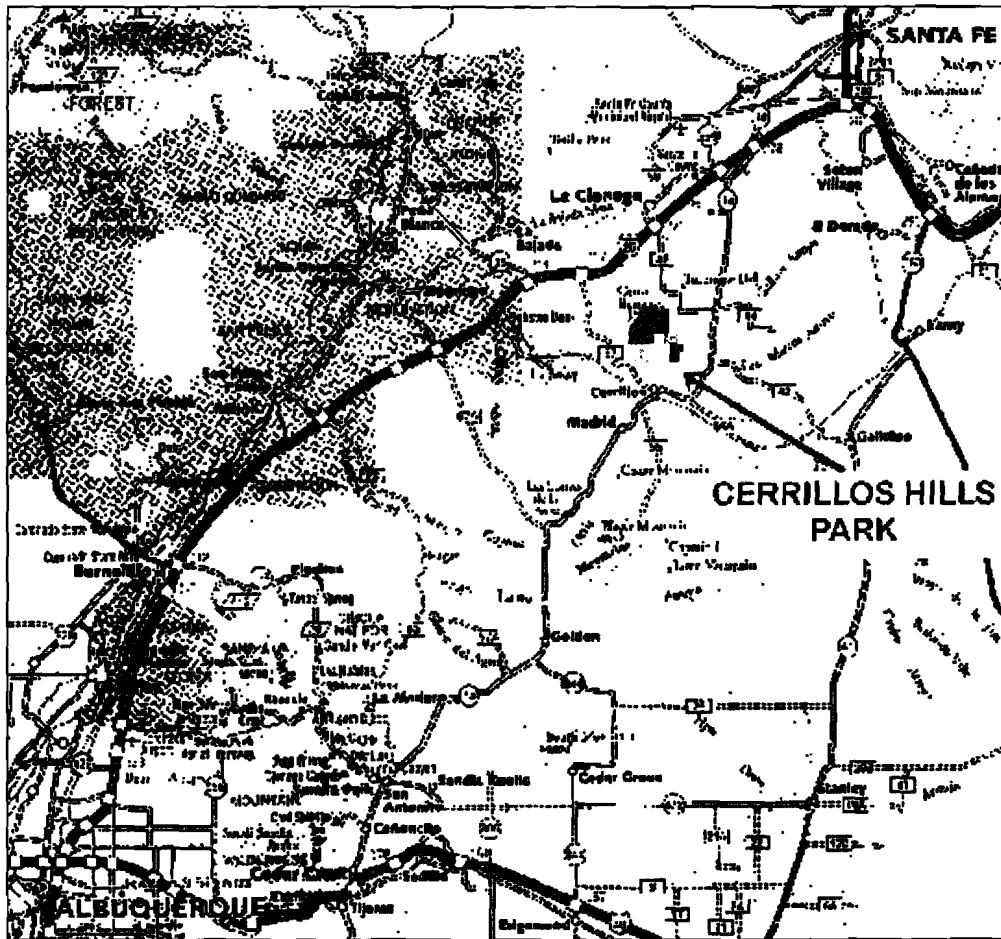
The draft plan provides guidelines for management, use and development of the Cerrillos Hills Historic Park. The plan may be evaluated and updated as appropriate every two years or as needed. The plan outlines the management structure, including the roles and responsibilities of the County and its management partners, and implementation strategies for management recommendations.

Separate handbooks will be developed detailing specifics on the following areas listed below. The purpose of the handbooks is to document County policies and procedures in various aspects of park management. These handbooks will be used to train volunteer stewards, direct educational providers and codify relations with commercial use operators.

- Archaeological site stewardship
- Trail monitoring
- Trail maintenance
- Educational programming
- Signs
- Commercial Recreational Use Permits



View of the Southern entrance of the Cerrillos Hills Historic Park (Photo Patrick Allen Mohn)

Figure 1 – Location Map in Santa Fe County

C. Planning Process

Planning for the Cerrillos Hills Historic Park began with the purchase of the property in 2000. Since that time there have been several studies on various aspects of the area as well as grants that provided funding for certain physical improvements within the park. Formal management planning of the park began in November 2002 with the formation of the Cerrillos Hills Historic Park Management Planning Team. The Planning Team is made up of volunteer groups and individuals interested in forming a management structure for the park to protect its resources and to provide a positive visitor experience. The Planning Team consists of the Santa Fe County Open Space and Trails Program staff, National Park Service – Rivers Trails and Conservation Assistance Program staff, Bureau of Land Management, Taos Field Office staff, members of the Cerrillos Hills Park Coalition, representatives from New Mexico Mountain Bike Adventures and a representative from the County Open Lands and Trails Planning Advisory Committee.

The Planning Team held its first meeting November 1, 2002. Since that initial meeting the planning team has met several times to develop the concepts included in this management plan. Many of the planning team member organizations will be active participants in managing the park.

The management plan was presented to community members in Cerrillos during an April 10th, 2003 public meeting. Public input and comments are included in the plan as appropriate.

B. Park Vision

During a meeting on January 6, 2003 the Cerrillos Hills Historic Park Management Planning team composed the following vision statement.

The Cerrillos Hills Historic Park is the preeminent tri-cultural mining region of North America. A timeless cultural crossroads and a living teacher, the Hills are a place of refuge and learning managed so that all can be nourished by the rich historical and multi-cultural heritage that has thrived here over the centuries. The Park offers to all who visit it, recreation, education and a renewed sense of connection to the land, to one's place in history and to the earth as a whole.

D. Planning Framework

The list below identifies the topics that are addressed in this management plan in the order they appear within the plan. The section text and conclusions for each topic are based on analysis of the existing resources found in the park, County Open Space and Trails planning guidelines, partner organization needs, and the research and analysis of the Cerrillos Hills Historic Park Management Planning Team.

- Park Resources
 - Natural Features
 - Cultural Significance
 - Visitor Opportunities
- Park Management
 - Objectives
 - Management Units
 - Visitor Units
 - Trails Units
 - Conservation Units
 - Buffer Units
 - General Actions (non unit specific)
 - Related Lands
- Implementation Strategies

II. Park Resources

2523308

A. Natural Features

The Cerrillos hills are one of Santa Fe County's most prominent landmarks – rising 1000-1500 feet above the surface of the Santa Fe and Galisteo basins. The rounded hills, dissected by numerous arroyos are the eroding remnants of ancient volcanoes. Around 30 million years ago, tectonic activity forced intrusive magma bodies into the sedimentary Mancos Shale and the Galisteo Formation that had been deposited earlier, disrupting them, baking them, injecting them with mineral-rich fluids, and then erupting out at the surface to form a volcano. Today you can find this intrusive material in many places in the hills as a hard, pale gray, granite-like stone -- Monzonite Porphyry. Older shales and sandstones are also common; the dark gray Mancos Shale includes abundant visible fossilized remnants of small marine creatures.

The minerals that formed within veins within the monzonite fractures have attracted people to the hills for over a thousand years. The Cerrillos Hills are best known for turquoise, but silver, lead, copper, zinc, and gold have all been mined in the historic mining district. Turquoise forms as surface water percolates through the monzonite in veins or small nodules, the highest quality specimens are found at shallow (less than 100 feet) depths.

Loose stones, rocky outcroppings, and very gravelly or stony soils cover most of the Cerrillos Hills. The poor soils and semiarid climate support an open woodland representative of the piñon-juniper ecosystem. Widely spaced, mixed stands of piñon and juniper give this belt or life zone a distinctive individuality entirely different from that of any other place. Grassland is the dominant vegetative type along with piñon, juniper, and occasional mountain mahogany. Despite the seemingly homogeneous vegetation type, a great complexity of plant and animal life is present because of the various conditions provided by the divergent soil types, slopes, aspects, and drainages in the hills.

Introduced livestock of many classes have grazed the hills year-round by or for over three centuries. At the time the County acquired the park it was estimated that 80-90% of the vegetative growth from grasses had been grazed. The steeper hillsides in the northwest area of the park did not exhibit signs of grazing. Browsing on palatable shrubs had also been heavy and most had a distorted growth form from repeated browsing during all seasons. The impacts of grazing on the original plant community are unknown but probably have led to a decline in some of the more productive mid-grasses, while favoring the predominance of grazing resistant grasses such as blue grama. The amount of topsoil lost over time is also unknown. Despite the long history of uncontrolled grazing, the average plant density of the various species is still high and many of the species that can grow in this area are still found, albeit at reduced population levels.

The diversity and abundance of both plants and animals is greatest in the sheltered canyons and arroyos of the park, particularly around several perennial springs. These springs are focal points for a wealth of diverse plants and animals including

some small valley cottonwoods and willows, but have been degraded by unmanaged grazing, road development, and other land use practices. Protection and restoration of riparian areas will be critical to maintaining the ecological integrity of the area.

While a systematic biological inventory of the area has not been conducted, the Cerrillos Hills appear to support most of the wildlife species that one might expect in hilly grassland and woodland in central New Mexico. At least twenty-five species of wild mammals (including bobcats, porcupine, coyote and mule deer), four species of bats, numerous rodents, reptiles and amphibians, as well as innumerable invertebrates are known to occur in the area. More than thirty species of birds have been identified including great horned owls and golden eagles. For bats, ten species of concern that are tracked by the New Mexico Natural Heritage Program are known to occur in Santa Fe County and all have the potential to exist in this area. In general, bat populations are declining because they are highly sensitive to habitat disturbances. Protection of the hills would provide an important refuge for their future protection and study. In a natural area this large, it is also possible that a systematic biological survey would reveal additional rare, threatened or endangered species.

B. Cultural Significance

Over the last thousand years the Cerrillos Hills, with its tricultural heritage, have held an unusually important place in the history of the American Southwest. The known history of mining in the Cerrillos hills - which includes turquoise and lead mining beginning in about 900 AD, Spanish mines of the 17th Century, and American mining of the 19th century - make this one of the oldest mining districts in North America.

Extensive evidence of prehistoric, Spanish, Mexican, and American period mining can still be found in the Cerrillos Hills Historic Park. Recent archeological surveys have documented hundreds of cultural features, including remnants of the mines themselves (shafts, pits, etc.), habitation sites, tools, shrines, lambing pens, and artifact scatters. While the most visible features in the park are remnants of historic mining activity, more subtle prehistoric artifacts were found at nearly three-quarters of the identified cultural sites.

The Cerrillos Hills turquoise and lead deposits played a central role in the commerce and economy of the prehistoric Indians of the greater Rio Grande Valley, and it is probable that these mineral deposits influenced the early Spanish explorations and settlement of New Mexico. Pottery sherds found in the Cerrillos Hills date the use of the mineral resources from about AD 900, and the Hills are the source of much of the lead that was used for glaze paint by Rio Grande Pueblo potters between AD 1300 and 1700. Analysis of the sherds in the Cerrillos Hills indicated a large portion of them came from the nearby San Marcos Pueblo, which between the middle 1300s and the middle 1400s was the major center of pottery making in the upper Middle Rio Grande Valley.

Archaeological sites present today and associated with the Puebloan mining activities in the Hills include turquoise pits, quarries, lead or galena mines, refining areas, workshops, hearths, campsites, and sherd areas.

Early Spanish *entradas* in the 1580s and 1590s were successful in visiting the Cerrillos Hills and obtaining ore specimens for assay. In 1591 Captain Gasp r Casta o de Sosa

visited San Marcos pueblo and a portion of his party remained for 17 days, prospected, and "...made many tests which showed silver...". Juan de Oñate, himself a miner, led colonization of New Mexico for Spain from 1598-1607, and attempted to promote mineral exploitation in the region, but no great mines or huge fortunes materialized. In 1695 Governor Vargas appointed a mayor for *El Real de los Cerrillos*, which qualifies it as the oldest Western mining settlement for which we have a clear record. *El Real de los Cerrillos* was abandoned and probably destroyed during the revolt of 1696. Spanish activities in the Cerrillos Hills are poorly documented. Spanish mining laws were strict, so whatever mining occurred was probably done without the benefit of official sanction and records. It was only as recently as 1970 that archaeological evidence confirming 17th century Spanish mining and smelting in the Cerrillos Hills was discovered.

Late in 1879 there was a classic mining boom in the Cerrillos Hills fueled by an influx of miners from Colorado and elsewhere. The Cerrillos Mining District was formed and in a very short time over 1,000 claims were registered. Many towns and camps sprang up in the Cerrillos Hills area. Despite optimistic marketing, very few mines produced profitable ore. This is evidenced by the fact that the only excavations to be seen on most of the claims within the park are shallow prospect pits. Money was made during the boom from selling claims – most of which were worthless – and the relatively high wages paid for prospecting.

The Cerrillos Mining District, of which the Cerrillos Hills Historic Park is a part, is listed on the New Mexico State Register of Cultural Properties and also is included in the US Department of Interior's National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings. Both individual cultural features and the larger mining landscape within the Cerrillos Hills Historic Park are probably eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

Numerous other highly significant prehistoric and historic features – the massive turquoise mine on Mount Chalchihuitl, prehistoric stone rings and a petroglyph at the summit of Grand Central Mountain, the ancient galena workings at Mino del Tiro, the ruins of Carbonateville, and many others – are located on public and private lands adjacent to the park and provide important context for the park.

C. Visitor Opportunities

Much of the interest in establishing the Cerrillos Hills Historic Park as public open space was due to its attractiveness for public recreation and use. Neighbors in the Village of Cerrillos and newer residential developments in San Marcos and Rancho Alegre frequently visit the undeveloped landscape, with its unique scenic, natural and cultural features. The park is within a 30-minute drive of most Santa Fe County residents, and is very accessible to tourists traveling Route 14. The park has the potential to become a regionally significant recreational resource.

Much of the park is suited to low-impact outdoor recreation. Trails within the park are currently used for hiking, biking, and horseback riding. At least three commercial businesses are already offering recreational guide services in the park. Use levels are projected to increase significantly when the park is open to the public. Sensitive natural and cultural sites need to be protected from the vandalism, artifact collection, and additional erosion that can be associated with recreational use.

Heritage education should be a key element of any visit to the park. The layers of life ways in these hills can help us to better understand and appreciate our cultural character, and our place in the world. To be able to see and touch the mines that were dug by prospectors a hundred years ago, the stumps of the trees they cut for firewood and shoring, and the sites of their tents and the walls of their shelters provides opportunities for experiential learning that are far more meaningful and memorable than simply reading about it in a book. The Cerrillos Hills Historic Park can help us to reconnect with our history and environment.

III. Park Management

A. Management Objectives

The following management objectives have been defined for the park based on the overall goals of the Santa Fe County Open Lands and Trails Program, specific opportunities and issues identified by the Cerrillos Hills Historic Park planning team, and consultations with interested members of the public:

1. Design and Install Appropriate Park Improvements – provide trails and other limited improvements that will support a quality visitor experience and park management while largely maintaining the undeveloped character of the park.
2. Protect Sensitive Resources – achieve sufficient understanding of the park's resources to effectively protect significant natural and cultural features.
3. Improve Environmental Quality – restore and protect a representative portion of the Cerrillos Hills ecosystems.
4. Safely Accommodate Multiple Uses – support diverse recreational and educational activities while minimizing user conflicts and other safety hazards.
5. Support Local Business Opportunities – promote sustainable park-based activities that benefit local businesses.
6. Provide Educational Experiences – promote diverse experiential learning opportunities as a part of all park visits.
7. Cooperate With Adjacent Land Owners/Managers – minimize negative impacts to neighboring landowners and promote opportunities for collaboration.
8. Sustain Long-term Stewardship – develop management partnerships and funding strategies that address long-term stewardship needs.

B. Management Units

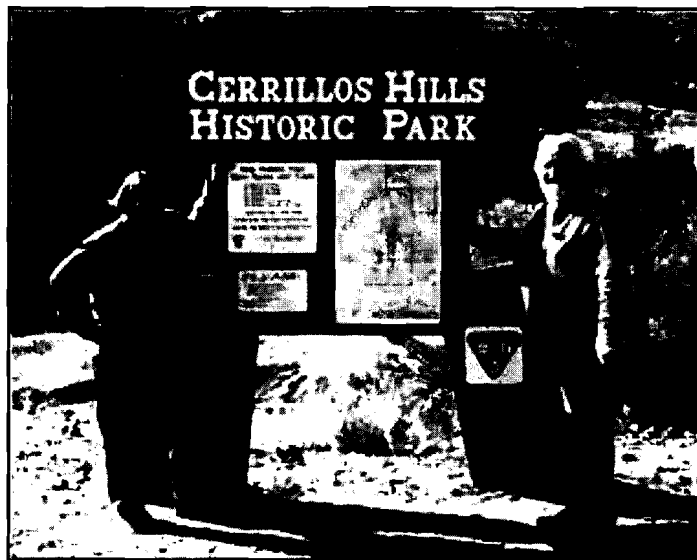
In order to effectively manage the CHHP the park area is divided into the four general management units described below. Any land area that does not fall under one of the management units below is considered part of a preserve. These lands are essentially removed from public use except for rare occasions when a need for access is scientifically, educationally or traditionally based. The County may change management unit designation as appropriate for improved management practices.

1. Visitor Units

These areas support the park's visitor and administrative facilities including, but not limited to, the following: parking lots, trailheads, kiosks, toilets, picnic areas and educational/interpretive facilities. An emphasis is placed on educating visitors about the available resources of the park, appropriate public uses and management practices. Based on available resources, visitor units will be constructed to facilitate accessibility.

Figure 2: Visitor Unit Facilities, Use and Management Matrix

Unit Name	Facilities	Projected Use	Management Needs
Trailhead/ Parking lot	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12-car lot w/post & cable fence • 3-horse trailer lot • restroom • information kiosk • Trailhead and entrance signs • picnic table • self pay box • bike rack • Amphitheater/picnic shelter • Gate/lock 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High – all user types are allowed. Pedestrians, bicyclists & equestrians.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visitor use and facilities are intensively managed in this unit for resource protection and safety purposes (e.g., with fences, intensive law enforcement, and restrictions on visitor activities). • Regular law enforcement patrol • Trash pick up • Restroom cleaning and servicing • Periodic parking lot maintenance • Periodic information kiosk maintenance • Maintenance of driveway across arroyo • Regular Fee collection • Sign development and maintenance



Cerrillos Hills Historic Park Entrance Sign (Photo Michael Roedel)

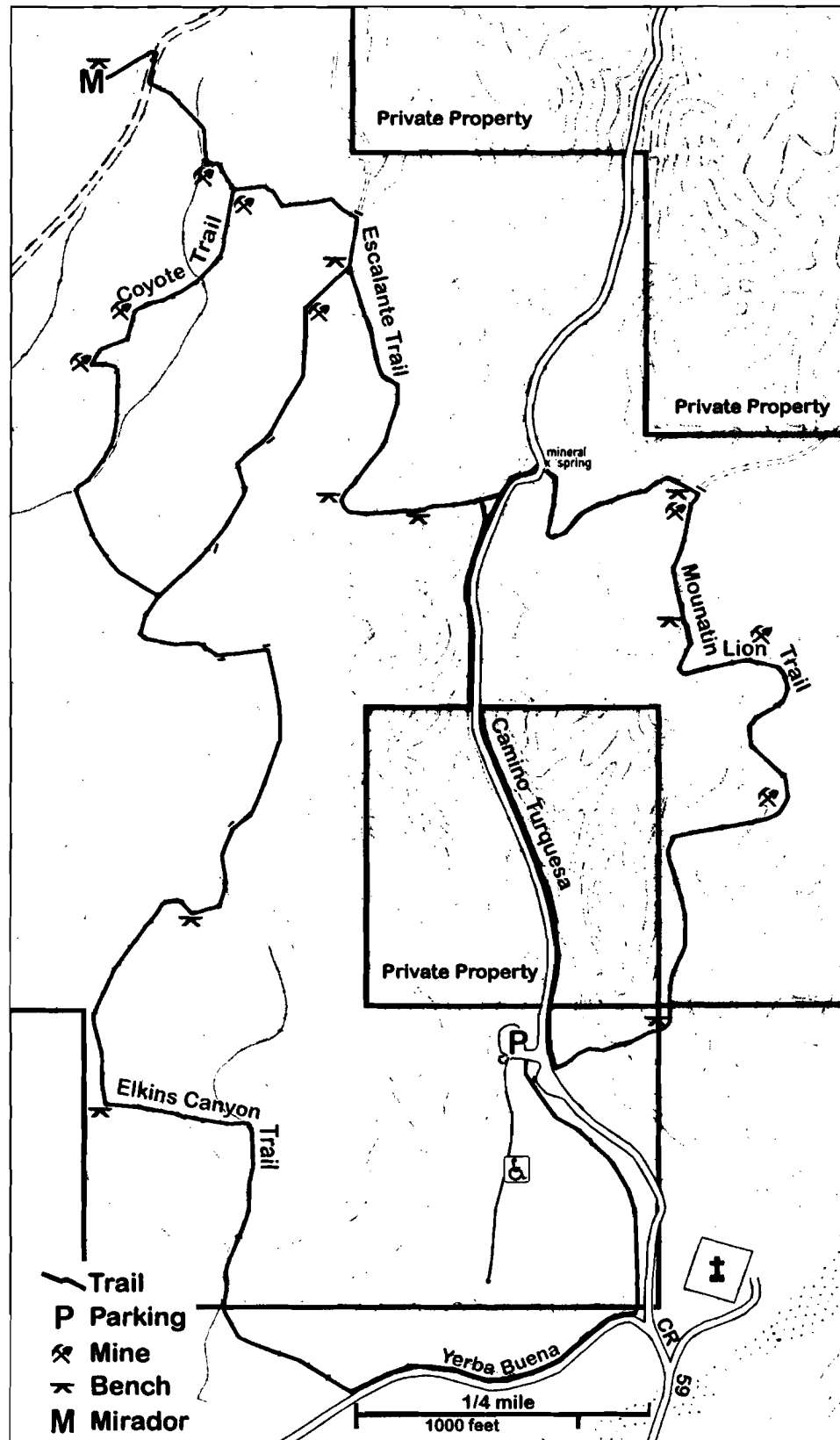
Figure 2: Visitor Unit Facilities, Use and Management Matrix

Unit Name	Facilities	Projected Use	Management Needs
Education Area 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20'x20' on previously disturbed area, • interpretive sign 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High – all user types are allowed, cyclists and equestrians must dismount 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trash pick up • interpretive sign development and maintenance • replacement/update of interpretive materials • maintenance of grounds • volunteer guides or docents
Education Area 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10'x10' on previously disturbed area • interpretive sign 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High – all user types are allowed, cyclists and equestrians must dismount 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trash pick up • interpretive sign maintenance • replacement/update of interpretive materials • maintenance of grounds • volunteer guides or docents
Education Area 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10'x10' on previously disturbed area, • interpretive sign 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High – all user types are allowed, cyclists and equestrians must dismount 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trash pick up • interpretive sign maintenance • replacement/update of interpretive materials • maintenance of grounds • volunteer guides or docents
Education Area 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15" x 30" on previously disturbed area, adjacent to Spring Restoration Area 1 • interpretive sign 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High – all user types are allowed, cyclists and equestrians must dismount 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trash pick up • interpretive sign maintenance • replacement/update of interpretive materials • maintenance of grounds • volunteer guides or docents
Education Area 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15'x15' area on previously disturbed area • interpretive sign 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High – all user types are allowed, cyclists and equestrians must dismount 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trash pick up • interpretive sign maintenance • replacement/update of interpretive materials • maintenance of grounds • volunteer guides or docents
Education Area 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10'x10' area on previously disturbed area • interpretive sign 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High – all user types are allowed, cyclists and equestrians must dismount 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trash pick up • interpretive sign maintenance • replacement/update of interpretive materials • maintenance of grounds • volunteer guides or docents
Education Area 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10'x10' area on previously disturbed area • interpretive sign • bench 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High – all user types are allowed, cyclists and equestrians must dismount 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trash pick up • interpretive sign maintenance • replacement/update of interpretive materials • maintenance of grounds • volunteer guides or docents
Mine Education. Area 1 Site 128.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High tensile steel mesh (22.7'x22') over shaft • post & cable fence around shaft • viewing platform w/handrail • interpretive sign 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medium - all user types are allowed, cyclists and equestrians must dismount 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trash pick up • interpretive sign maintenance • staff/professional inspection of structural integrity • replacement/update of interpretive materials

Figure 2: Visitor Unit Facilities, Use and Management Matrix

Unit Name	Facilities	Projected Use	Management Needs
Mine Education Area 2 Site 127.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High tensile steel mesh (26'x22.7') over shaft • post & cable fence around shaft • viewing platform w/handrail 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medium - all user types are allowed, cyclists and equestrians must dismount 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trash pick up • interpretive sign maintenance • staff/professional inspection of structural integrity
Mine education Area 3 Site 130.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High tensile steel mesh (31'x33.8') over shaft • Post & cable fence around shaft • 3' bridge over shaft 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medium - all user types are allowed, cyclists and equestrians must dismount 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trash pick up • staff/professional inspection of structural integrity
Mine Education Area 4 Site 135.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High tensile steel mesh (27'x22.7') over shaft • Post & cable fence around shaft • viewing platform w/handrail 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medium - all user types are allowed, cyclists and equestrians must dismount 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trash pick up • staff/professional inspection of structural integrity
Mine Education Area 5 Site 65.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partial Fill • 3 foot fence enclosure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medium - all user types are allowed, cyclists and equestrians must dismount 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trash pick up • staff/professional inspection of structural integrity
Mine Education Area 6 Site 143.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High tensile steel mesh (24'x22.7') over shaft • Post & cable fence around shaft • viewing platform 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medium - all user types are allowed, cyclists and equestrians must dismount 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • replacement/update of interpretive materials • staff/professional inspection of structural integrity
Mine Education Area 7 Site 169.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partial Fill • 3 foot fence enclosure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medium - all user types are allowed, cyclists and equestrians must dismount 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trash pick up • staff/professional inspection of structural integrity
Mine Education Area 8 Site 206.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partial Fill • 3 foot fence enclosure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medium - all user types are allowed, cyclists and equestrians must dismount 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trash pick up • staff/professional inspection of structural integrity
Overlook 1 - Mountain Trail	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15'x15' feet area • bench • post & cable fencing or rock barrier • interpretive sign 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medium- all user types are allowed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • monitor viewshed integrity • trash pick up • maintenance of grounds
Overlook 2 – Western	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15'x15' feet area • bench • post & cable fencing or rock barrier • interpretive sign 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medium- all user types are allowed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • monitor viewshed integrity • trash pick up • maintenance of grounds

Figure 3 – Visitor Units



Recommended 2003-2004 Visitor Unit Management Goals:**2523316**

- Install trailhead area improvements – vault toilet, accessible trail and overlook, shade structure, signs, gate, and parking lot barriers. Lead party – County Open Space and Trails, with volunteer support.
- Improve arroyo driveway crossing to withstand periodic flooding and maintain parking lot and crossing to support year-round public use. Lead – County Open Space and Trails.
- Conduct daily monitoring and maintenance of trailhead area and biweekly monitoring and maintenance of all visitor units. Lead - Cerrillos Hills Park Coalition.
- Regular patrol of entrance road and parking lot. Lead - County Sheriff
- Administer special use permit and trailhead registration. Lead - Cerrillos Hills Park Coalition
- Complete mine treatments and inspect them for public safety. Lead – New Mexico Abandoned Mine Lands Program
- Plan and organize formal and informal educational activities for the park. Lead - County Open Space and Trails
- Implement educational activities within the park, including but not limited to sponsoring guided walks and talks, developing interpretive materials, and leading classroom activities. Lead - Cerrillos Hills Park Coalition and Educational Partners.
- Demarcate and maintain educational areas. Lead - Cerrillos Hills Park Coalition
- Develop interpretive signs for targeted educational areas. County, with volunteer support, installs signs. Lead - Cerrillos Hills Park Coalition and County Open Space and Trails Program.

Management Evaluation

The following indicators will be monitored to evaluate the effectiveness of the visitor unit management program:

- number of visitors to the park
- number of educational group visits
- number of commercial tour visits
- visitor satisfaction surveys
- educator evaluations
- condition of parking lot surface, entrance road, signs, and other facilities
- frequency of incidences of vandalism and littering
- maintenance hours logged by staff or volunteers in area
- log book records

2. Trail Units

Trails provide the public with access routes into the park. It is the goal of Santa Fe County to provide trails that are accessible to various segments of the general population. The county may open or close trail units or sections of trail units as appropriate. For the purposes of this plan the trails are divided into four unit types: Accessible Trails, Primary trails, Backcountry Trails and Special Use Trails. Descriptions of these unit types are listed below.

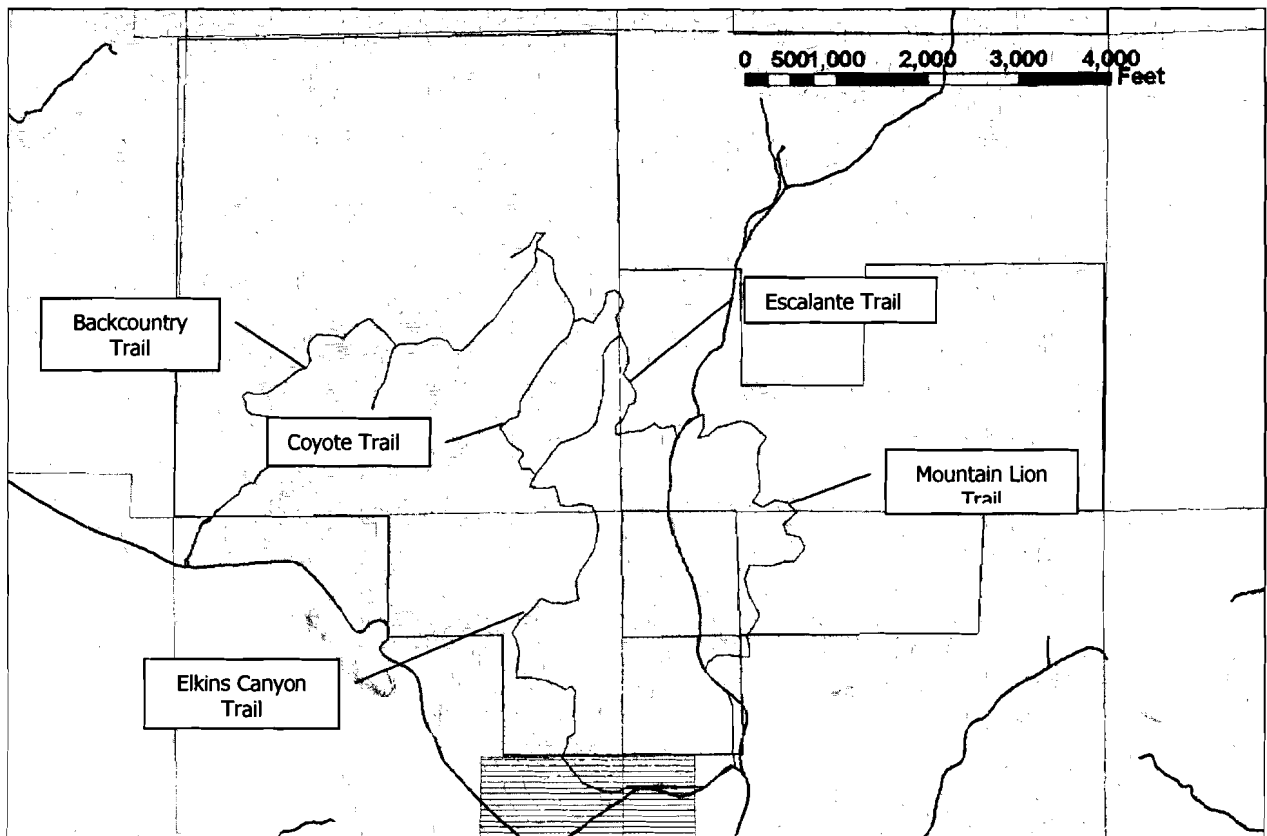
Accessible Trails

The accessible trail is characterized as a high-use corridor that is generally wide and flat. The trail provides the easiest route for visitors to experience park features. An accessible trail is planned for the CHHP.

Primary Trails

The primary trail is a high use, well defined trail corridor that provides relatively easy access to representative or prime park features. If necessary, the primary trail is wider than other trails in the park to accommodate a high number of users. Visitors can see, touch, smell, and hear park resources as they walk along a well-defined trail.

Figure 4 – Trail Units



Backcountry Trails

These trails are primitive and lightly used, providing access to more remote and sometimes more physically challenging areas in the park. No facilities exist along the trails except limited route or trail markings.

Special Use Trails

These existing roads and trails are only open to groups, individuals or commercial recreational operators that obtain special permission for entry. These trails are restricted due to their proximity to sensitive natural or cultural resources. Special Use Trails may also serve as access routes for emergency vehicles.

Figure 5: Trail Unit Facilities, Use and Management Matrix

Unit Name	Facilities	Projected Use	Management Needs
Accessible	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Five foot wide hardened, natural tread • cross slope 2% or less • running slope 8.33% max • 2 inch high edging on sides of tread • four rest areas w/bench • International Symbol of Access sign at beginning of trail • Overlook at trail's end 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High – Hikers & wheelchair users only 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • monthly maintenance checks by experienced staff, volunteers or professionals
Primary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The areas along the primary trail unit are predominately natural, but with much evidence of the sights and sounds of people. • 4-8 foot tread, well defined • 5% cross slope • 15% (max) running slope • 10' vertical clearance • viewing or rest areas, & small interpretive structures off trail 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High - Equestrians, hikers & mountain bikes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Within this trail corridor, resources are modified for essential visitor and park operation needs, but they are changed in a way that harmonizes with the natural environment • well defined tread • adequate signage along route, crucial junction points and at road crossings • regular maintenance by staff or volunteers • adequate trail etiquette and rules and regulation signs • maintenance of fence along trail easement
Backcountry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2-3 foot soft, natural tread 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medium- Equestrians, hikers & mountain bikes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moderate level of management is needed to provide for resource protection and safety purposes • Subtle onsite controls and restrictions may be present, such as placing rocks along the trail edges, restricting off-trail use • Resource modifications are restricted to the trail corridor, and designed to harmonize with the natural environment • visitor registration system • Construction of western linkage
Special Use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2-3 foot soft, natural tread 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low - Users may include organized educational groups, researchers, and guided tours with permission 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • low level of management • visitor registration system

Recommended 2003-2004 Trails Units Management Goals

- Design, construct and repair of primary and backcountry trails. Lead – County Open Space and Trails Program with assistance of volunteers and organizations such as the Youth corps.
- Patrol designated sections of trail bimonthly and record data on trail conditions. Lead – Volunteer trail monitors.
- Install trail directional signage along backcountry trails. Lead – County Open Space and Trails Program with assistance from the Cerrillos Hills Park Coalition.
- Compile trail data and maintain trail database. Lead - County Open Space and Trails Program.
- Inspection of accessible trail monthly. Lead - County Open Space and Trails Program.
- Maintain County Road 59 and 57. Lead - County.
- Construct accessible trail. Lead - Contracted professional with County Open Space and Trails Program oversight.
- Designation of backcountry trails. Lead – County Open Space and Trails Program, working with the Bureau of Land Management and the State Historic Preservation division and with support and guidance from the Cerrillos Hills Parks Coalition, volunteers, and commercial operators.

Management Evaluation

The following indicators will be monitored to evaluate the effectiveness of the trail units management program

Accessible Trail

- proper cross & running slope
- tread width
- tread integrity (incidences of erosion, ruts or obstacles)
- frequency of incidences of vandalism and littering
- User counts

Primary Trail

- regular trail monitoring using the trail maintenance matrix
- Visitor registration records
- frequency of incidences of vandalism and littering

Backcountry trails

- periodic trail monitoring using the trail maintenance matrix
- Visitor registration records
- frequency of incidences of vandalism and littering

Special Use Trails

- number of organized group use
- incidences and frequency of unauthorized use

3. Conservation Units

These are areas with a concentration of significant natural and cultural resources that require protection and/or restoration. Often these areas have been severely impacted by past use and intensive restoration activities are employed in an effort to restore a greater degree of natural functionality to the ecological community. They also provide habitat areas for human sensitive wildlife species.

Figure 6: Conservation Unit Facilities, Use and Management Matrix

Unit Name	Facilities	Projected Use	Management Needs
Spring Restoration Area 1 west side of County Rd 59 & south of primary loop trail	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No existing facilities to date. Limited trails or facilities may be developed within the conservation area to support educational activities in so far as their development and use will not conflict with restoration goals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low - No equestrians or mountain bikes are permitted • May be off limits seasonally 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public use is highly managed to prevent additional resource degradation in sensitive areas • Area will support educational programs highlighting the park's natural resources, past impacts, and resource management techniques • Resource managers and researchers can make significant alterations to the existing landscape for restoration efforts
Spring Restoration Area 2 east side of County Rd 59 & south of primary loop trail	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No existing facilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High – Primary trail runs through the area • No equestrians or mountain bikes are permitted within the area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sign explaining sensitive nature of the area is needed • Public use is highly managed to prevent additional resource degradation in sensitive areas • Area will support educational programs highlighting the park's natural resources, past impacts, and resource management techniques • Resource managers and researchers can make significant alterations to the existing landscape for restoration efforts
Spring Restoration Area 3 east of western most backcountry trail	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No existing facilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low- use is restricted to guided groups or researchers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public use is highly managed to prevent additional resource degradation in sensitive areas • Resource managers and researchers can make significant alterations to the existing landscape for restoration efforts
Spring Restoration Area 4 west of west restricted trail	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No existing facilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low- use is restricted to guided groups or researchers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public use is highly managed to prevent additional resource degradation in sensitive areas • Resource managers and researchers can make significant alterations to the existing landscape for restoration efforts

Recommended 2003-2004 Conservation Units Management Goals

- Implement approved habitat improvements. Lead - Cerrillos Hills Park Coalition.
- Organize educational programs for conservation areas. Lead - County Open Space and Trails.
- Implement conservation area education and monitoring programs. Lead – County Open Space and Trails Partners with identified education providers.

Management Evaluation

The following indicators will be monitored to evaluate the effectiveness of the conservation units management program.

- Water quality
- Aquatic plants inventory
- Macro invertebrate inventory
- Surrounding vegetation inventory



Members of the Youth Earth Service Corps assist in spring restoration (Photo CHPC)

4. Buffer Units

Buffer zones are areas situated between different zones to provide a smooth transition between the zones or to protect sensitive resources or private property adjacent to a developed zone or trail corridor.

Figure 7: Buffer Unit Facilities, Use and Management Matrix

Unit Name	Facilities	Projected Use	Management Needs
Trailhead/Parking lot buffer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No built facilities • Buffer vegetation planted 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular inspections to insure that buffer vegetation is maintained

Recommended 2003-2004 Buffer Units Management Goals

- Plant appropriate vegetation in the buffer zones. Lead - Cerrillos Hills Park Coalition.
- Maintain County boundary markers. Lead - Cerrillos Hills Park Coalition.

Management Evaluation

The following indicators will be monitored to evaluate the effectiveness of the buffer units management program.

- Evidence of infringement
- Buffer vegetation health

C. General Management Goals (Non Unit Specific)

- Coordinate volunteers for appropriate projects. Lead - County Open Space and Trails Program.
- Produce and distribute park informational materials. Lead - Cerrillos Hills Park Coalition with County assistance in printing.
- Monitor and research archaeological sites. Lead - Volunteer site stewards, supervised by the State Historic Preservation Division and the County Open Space and Trails Program.
- Develop and administer permit program for commercial and special uses. Lead - County Open Space and Trails Program.
- Install and maintain signs, fences and gates. Lead - County Open Space and Trails Program and the Cerrillos Hills Park Coalition
- Develop and install appropriate road signs. Lead - County Open Space and Trails Program.
- Perform law enforcement duties and emergency response when necessary. Lead - County Sheriff's Department and Fire Department coordinating with the County Open Space and Trails Program.

D. Related Lands

2523323

1. Public Lands

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and NM State Land Office manage over 2,000 acres in the Cerrillos Hills north and east of the Cerrillos Hills Historic Park. The lands currently accommodate multiple uses including grazing, low-level mining, and recreation. Backcountry and special use trails provide direct access between BLM lands and the Cerrillos Hills Historic Park. Collaborative efforts to coordinate use and protection of the hills as a public resource will include designating appropriate trails and access points that link adjacent public lands, monitoring impacts to sensitive archeological sites, joint administration of commercial and special use permits, and producing and distributing public information. The County will also work with both the BLM and State Land Office to develop policies and practices that help protect open space qualities in the Cerrillos Hills.

2. Village of Cerrillos

The Village of Cerrillos is made up of 25' x 100' lots clustered in a 9-block area. Traditionally the rural community kept small herds of livestock in the hills and surrounding area. However, in the last 20 years the surrounding area has become residential and grazing activity has diminished. Presently the Cerrillos Hills Historic Park cannot appropriately sustain grazing, but opportunities to support sustainable grazing in the Hills as part of a regional grass banking system will continue to be explored in the future. Recent plans for the Village define a vision for the community that includes promoting local business and employment opportunities that do not disrupt the Village character, and providing increased recreational and educational opportunities for youth and elderly. Cerrillos Hills Historic Park managers will work with community leaders to develop park-based programs that can directly support these goals.

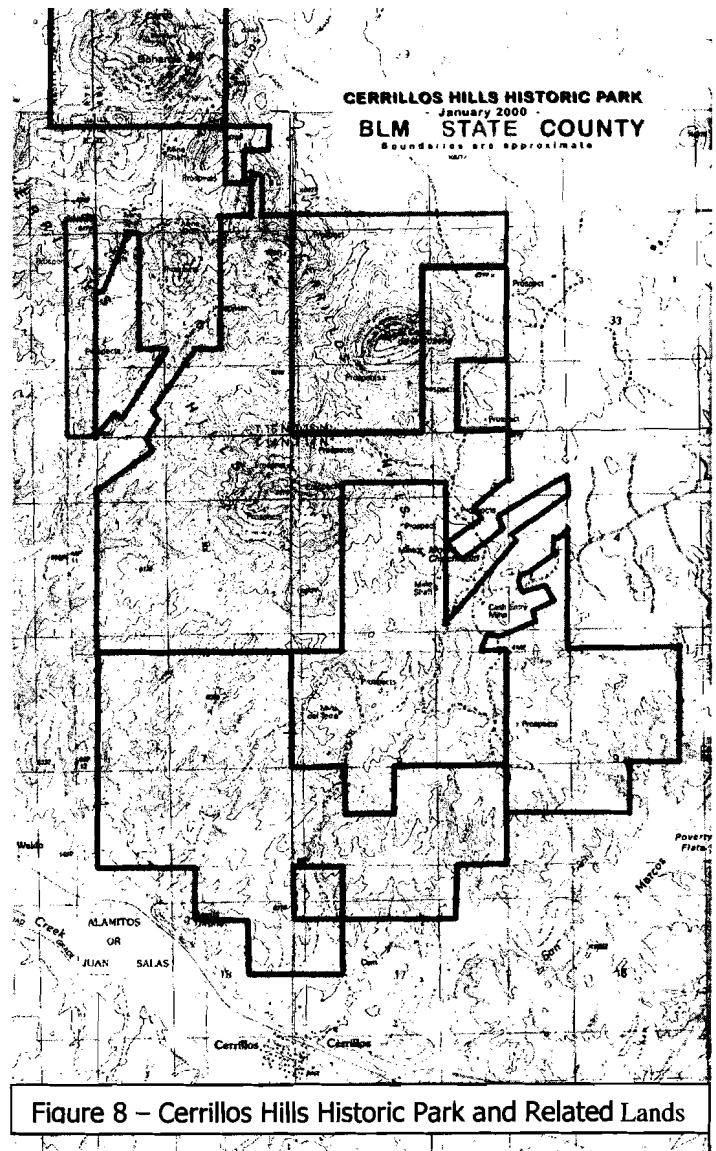


Figure 8 – Cerrillos Hills Historic Park and Related Lands

3. County Road Corridors

2523324

Two County Road corridors – CR59 and CR57 – lie directly within and adjacent to the Cerrillos Hills Historic Park. The roads provide vehicle access to the designated parking lot and trailhead area and serve both local residents and mining activity north of the park. Segments of the park's primary trails lie within or cross the road rights of way. Road and trail signs, speed limits, road maintenance and other roadway management practices will be coordinated to assure park visitors' safety, and minimize negative impacts to park resources and the visitor experience.

4. Mount Chalchihuitl

The County Open Lands and Trails Program has entered into negotiations for the acquisition of a parcel approximately 430 acres of private land within the Cerrillos Hills north of the Cerrillos Hills Historic Park. This parcel includes Mt. Chalchihuitl the site of extensive Native American turquoise mining. Two major and half a dozen minor turquoise quarries mark Mt. Chalchihuitl. The largest turquoise quarry on Mt. Chalchihuitl is approximately 200 feet across the rim, 100 feet across the bottom, and is funnel shaped. It is from 50-150 feet deep. It is astounding to imagine that this amazing and beautiful feature was dug with only hand tools. Archaeological findings on this site are prolific and confirm prehistoric mining activity of a wide variety. Grooved axes, mauls, picks, hand-held hammers, anvils, lapidary stones, Indian pottery, and remains of camp fires document prehistoric turquoise mining activities. If acquired the property will become a major visitor attraction as well as the most significant cultural feature on County property. Public use and protection of the property will be coordinated with Cerrillos Hills Historic Park management

5 Other Neighboring Land Owners

Other private properties around the Cerrillos Hills Historic Park are currently being used as either ranchlands or large lot residential developments. Neighboring land owners have been consulted throughout the planning process and efforts will continue to avoid negative impacts to neighbors and encourage their cooperation as stewards of the park and its surrounding lands.

IV. Implementation Strategies

In order for the Cerrillos Hills Historic Park to be effectively managed, various implementation strategies are proposed to accomplish the many tasks outlined in this plan. The following is a summary of the implementation activities and responsible parties.

A. Overall Park Management:

The CHHP is a designated County Open Space area and the County is responsible for the management and operation of the park. The County's Open Space and Trails

Program will be the primary office in-charge of park management. Additionally, the County recognizes that it has a unique opportunity to partner with local community members and businesses, the Cerrillos Hills Park Coalition, the BLM, the NPS and other individual/groups to implement effective and affordable management practices for the park.

To create an effective management structure and implement the various actions outlined in this plan, the County will work to develop cooperative agreements with the Cerrillos Hills Park Coalition, the BLM and other individuals and/or business, as appropriate, to conduct management activities. Additionally and as appropriate, the County may contract services for implementation and management needs.

B. Management Unit Action Strategies:

This plan outlines several actions to address specific issues within the designated management units. To accomplish these actions, the plan outlines various potential roles and responsibilities for implementing these strategies. These are planned potential roles that will be further defined based on available funding and resources.

1. Visitor Unit Management Actions:

- The Open Space and Trails Program
 - install trailhead area improvements (vault toilet, accessible trail and overlook, shade structure, signs, gate, and parking lot barriers)
 - improve arroyo crossing to withstand periodic flooding and maintain parking lot and crossing to support year-round public use
 - work with the Sheriff's Department to coordinate regular patrols of entrance road and parking lot as well as working to create long-term enforcement capacity of the open space and trails in the park.
- Cerrillos Hills Park Coalition
 - daily monitoring and maintenance of trailhead area and biweekly monitoring and maintenance of all visitor units,
 - implement educational activities within the park, including but not limited to sponsoring guided walks and talks, developing interpretive materials, and leading classroom activities
 - demarcates and maintains educational areas
 - plan and organize formal and informal educational activities for the park
- develop interpretive signs for targeted educational areas. County, with volunteer support, installs signs
- New Mexico Abandoned Mine Lands Program completes mine treatments and inspects them for public safety.

2. Trails Unit Management Actions:

- The Open Space and Trails Program
 - Develop Volunteer trail monitors to patrol designated sections of trail bimonthly and record data on trail conditions
 - inspect accessible trail monthly

- construct planned ADA accessible trail
- designate backcountry trails in coordination with the Bureau of Land Management, the State Historic Preservation division, the Cerrillos Hills Parks Coalition, volunteers, and commercial operators
- develop back country trails
- create trail maintenance program working with CHPC, volunteers and groups such as the Youth Corps
- Coordinate with the County Public Works Department for regular maintenance of County Roads 59 and 57.

3. Conservation Unit Management Actions:

- The Open Space and Trails Program
 - develop educational programs for conservation areas
 - coordinate with education partners to implement conservation area education and monitoring programs
- Cerrillos Hills Park Coalition
 - implement approved habitat improvements

4. Buffer Unit Management Actions:

- The Open Space and Trails Program
 - develop educational programs for conservation areas
 - coordinate with education partners to implement conservation area education and monitoring programs
- Cerrillos Hills Park Coalition
 - plant appropriate vegetation in the buffer zones
 - maintains County boundary markers

5. General Actions, Non-Unit Specific:

- The Open Space and Trails Program
 - coordinate volunteers for appropriate projects
 - develop and administer permit program for commercial and special uses
 - install and maintain signs, fences and gates in coordination with CHPC
 - develops and installs appropriate road signs
 - coordinate with the County Sheriff's Department and the County Fire department to develop mapping and contact protocol to facilitate appropriate emergency response.
- Cerrillos Hills Park Coalition
 - develop Volunteer site stewards group, in coordination with the State Historic Preservation Division, to monitor and research archaeological sites
 - Coordinate with the County to produce and distribute park informational materials.

C. Special Uses and Commercial Use Permits:

This plan envisions that the Cerrillos Hills Historic Park will continue the beneficial and supportive relationship that has existed with community members, educational and non-profit organizations, and commercial enterprises that have been neighbors and stewards to the park. In order to ensure that park uses will be sustainable and not degrade park resources, the Open Space and Trails program will develop specific permits for large group uses as well as commercial entities that wish to access the park. Use permits will be developed with consideration of the carrying capacity of existing resources and may be modified as uses evolve through the park's continued development and as conditions change.



After the rain (Photo CHPC)