

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

2018



6,600 acres

60 miles of trails

20 years of stewardship

Public Review Draft

November 1, 2018



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Views of the Galisteo Basin, Cerro Pelon

Cover image - Ortiz Mountains, looking south from Cerrillos Hill State Park

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

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Madrid Open Space



Los Potreros Open Space



View from Placer Peak at Ortiz Mountains Open Space

Executive Summary

This Strategic Management Plan is intended to be a guidance document from the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) to management, staff and the public for implementation of Open Space, Trails and Parks (OSTP) programs and projects. This plan also provides clear and transparent information for the public regarding the vision and goals of the County's OSTP program. Once adopted by the BCC, this plan will serve as a policy framework and an adaptable guide for future OSTP programming.

In 1998 and 2000, Santa Fe County voters approved \$20 million in bonds to purchase open space for conservation and recreation. Since that time, Santa Fe County has acquired 6,600 acres of open space, and built 60 miles of trails. In 2000, the original members of the County's Open Land, Trails and Parks Advisory Committee (COLTPAC) participated in the development of the Open Land and Trails Plan which outlined a grand vision of open space conservation and recreation opportunities in Santa Fe County. Progress on implementing that grand plan has been gradual, but momentum is building. The focus of this new Open Space, Trails and Parks Strategic Management Plan is to harness that momentum and build on the values that have guided the program for 20 years to significantly contribute to Santa Fe County residents' quality of life.

The purpose of this plan is to establish effective and efficient strategies to implement the short and long term goals for open space conservation and recreation development in Santa Fe County. This plan will guide the County in management of the Open Space, Trails and Parks Program (OSTP). It will also leverage past planning and investments to create a guide for staff, volunteers, partner agencies, and members of the public to implement projects for open space preservation and recreational opportunities.

This plan outlines policies, objectives and measurable actions towards becoming a national leader in landscape-wide conservation, innovative land management, and exceptional recreation opportunities.



Kennedy site at Thornton Ranch Open Space

This Strategic Plan is organized into four chapters:

Chapter 1: History and Planning outlines past planning and projects; existing conditions and property profiles.

Chapter 2: Strategy describes objectives towards advancing the program; and sets action steps towards reaching those objectives. This chapter sets the framework for the vision and goals for OSTP. The goals inform OSTP Directives and Core Elements that shape the strategy towards effective implementation of the plan.

Chapter 3: Work Plan shows the planned priority projects and tasks for the first five years as well as projected project timelines and resource needs.

Chapter 4: Plan Elements includes additional guiding documents for OSTP operations. This chapter will be amended as future documents are developed and adopted.

The focus of the Open Space, Trails and Parks Program (OSTP) has shifted over 20 years from acquisition to resource management and providing meaningful experiences for County residents. Conservation of open space is still a priority, but so is providing access to open spaces, developing trail connections, providing educational programming and managing property in a sustainable and context-appropriate way.

This OSTP Strategic Plan was developed in accordance with the Sustainable Growth Management Plan (SGMP). The Plan uses the SGMP Principles and Keys to Sustainability as high-level, overarching fundamental principles to implement the SGMP Goal related to open space. The process of developing this plan arose from the need for more detailed guidance towards managing significant landscapes throughout Santa Fe County.

As the OSTP program has grown and changed, management needs to be streamlined and coordinated to effectively execute management goals and strategies. This plan proposes concentrating efforts in key areas to strengthen OSTP management and operations.

- Educational programming and events
- Coordination, messaging and outreach
- Partnership development
- Resource management
- Program development and analysis
- Capacity building
- Project development and implementation
- Funding

These focus areas guide County staff in program development, project implementation and innovative partnership opportunities to effectively implement conservation and recreation projects, and to manage open space landscapes.

This plan does not recreate the vision and the goals of the Open Space, Trails and Parks Program but rather refocuses and streamlines them in order to move the program forward. This plan leverages considerable community, staff and financial investments in Santa Fe County residents' quality of life, and works to continue the legacy of exceptional conservation initiatives and outdoor recreation experiences for the next 20 years and beyond.



Los Potreritos Open Space





Vision

Santa Fe County's Open Spaces, Trails and Parks Program sustainably manages and conserves a vibrant network of cultural, historical, recreational and natural community resources that inspire a deep sense of regional identity and stewardship among current and future generations.

Mission

Santa Fe County provides innovative leadership in local land management and conservation that enhances the quality of life for County residents, provides access to public lands for unique outdoor experiences, advances community stewardship through partnerships and effectively leverages community investments in the Open Space Trails and Parks Program. Management of County open spaces and trail networks provides sustainable and resilient ecosystems with landscape-wide benefits for human, plant, and wildlife communities.



Grace's Warbler can be found on numerous open spaces, including the Ortiz Mountains. It is one of the least studied bird species in the United States and is rapidly declining. Jamie Scott/ National Park Service.

Chapter 1: History and Planning

This chapter outlines the history of the OSTP program, existing conditions and property background, and significant OSTP milestones.

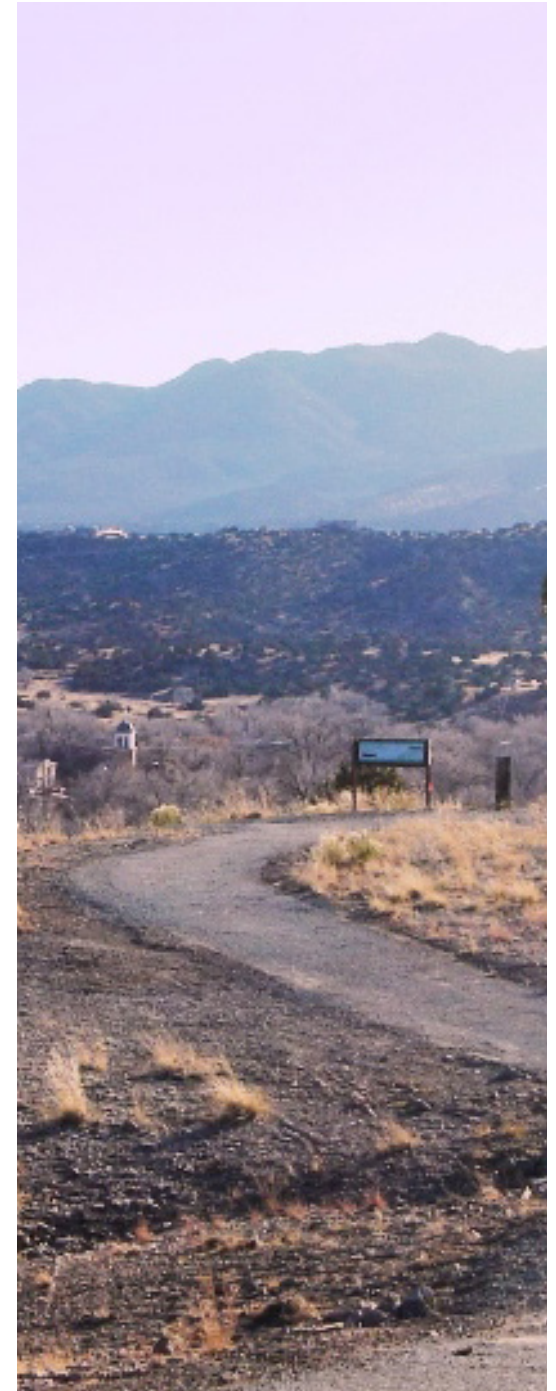
History outlines the evolution of OSTP from 2000 to 2018.

Program highlights depicts significant program milestones.

Property inventory summarizes current property holdings and describes why each property is special.

Management Landscapes organize how County projects will be viewed and properties will be classified.

Program structure reviews how the program is currently organized.



Cerrillos Hills State Park

Program History

In 1998 and 2000, Santa Fe County voters approved \$20 million in bonds to purchase open space for conservation and recreation. Since that time, Santa Fe County has acquired 6,600 acres of open space, and built 60 miles of trails.

The Open Space, Trails and Parks Program (OSTP) has grown and changed since 2000 and is now an interdepartmental program in the Growth Management, Public Works and Community Services Departments. The program's focus has shifted from acquisition to resource management of open space properties along with development of access and recreation opportunities for County residents.

Santa Fe County Open Space and Trails Program has had different areas of focus throughout the history of the program. Following voter approval of \$20 million dollars in bonds in 1998 and 2000, the first phase of the program focused heavily on open space property acquisition. An advisory committee, now the County Open Land, Trails, and Parks Advisory Committee (COLTPAC) was formed to assist staff in developing criteria for evaluation and recommendation for purchase of open space. COLTPAC also assisted in developing the Open Land and Trails plan in 2000, which outlined a vision for the Open Space Program at that time.

The second phase of the program was initiated by the dedication of 15% of Capital Outlay Gross Receipts Tax (GRT) set-aside for Open Space and Trails. This shifted the focus of the program into capital improvement projects on open space and trail properties. This GRT allocation was reprioritized to other County needs in 2011, again shifting the focus of the Open Space Program.



OSTP has acquired 26 open space properties that are distributed from Edgewood in the southern part of the County, to Chimayo in the north. Each property was acquired to conserve unique characteristics, landscapes, community connections and to provide educational opportunities for future generations of Santa Fe County residents. The current focus of OSTP is on resource management of Open Space properties in order to understand and protect the special cultural and environmental assets of each property.

In the first 20 years, OSTP has made considerable strides in providing exceptional conservation and outdoor experiences for Santa Fe County residents. Investments in providing an effective Open Space program have demonstrated continuing support, including increasing staff numbers and expanding the operation and projects budget year after year. The total investment over the first 20 years of OSTP for acquisition and project development is more than \$40 million; an additional \$7 million of grants has also been leveraged. Through the evolution of the program, the need to focus on maintenance, operations and stewardship has been identified in the short term; in the long term, there are opportunities to expand property inventory and develop additional facilities.



Thornton Ranch Open Space

Program Highlights

OSTP has made tremendous progress over the last few decades in conserving open space, developing trails and resource management projects for open space properties.

-  Acquisition
-  Program Milestone
-  Capital Project
-  Planning Project

RTP- Recreational Trails Program
 NMED- New Mexico Environment Department
 SFPSCWD- Santa Fe- Pojoaque Soil and Water Conservation District
 TPL- Trust for Public Land
 SFNF- Santa Fe National Forest

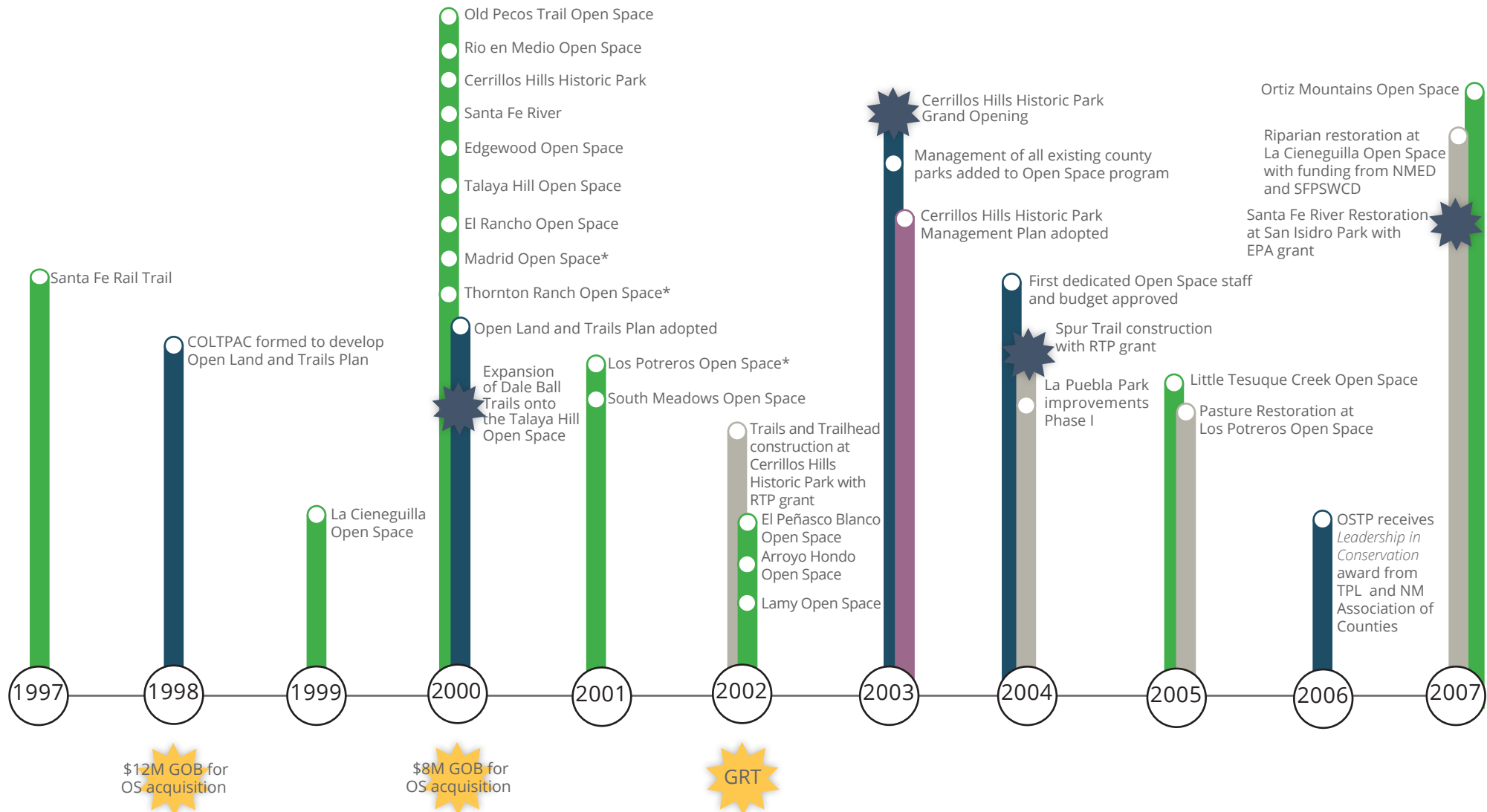


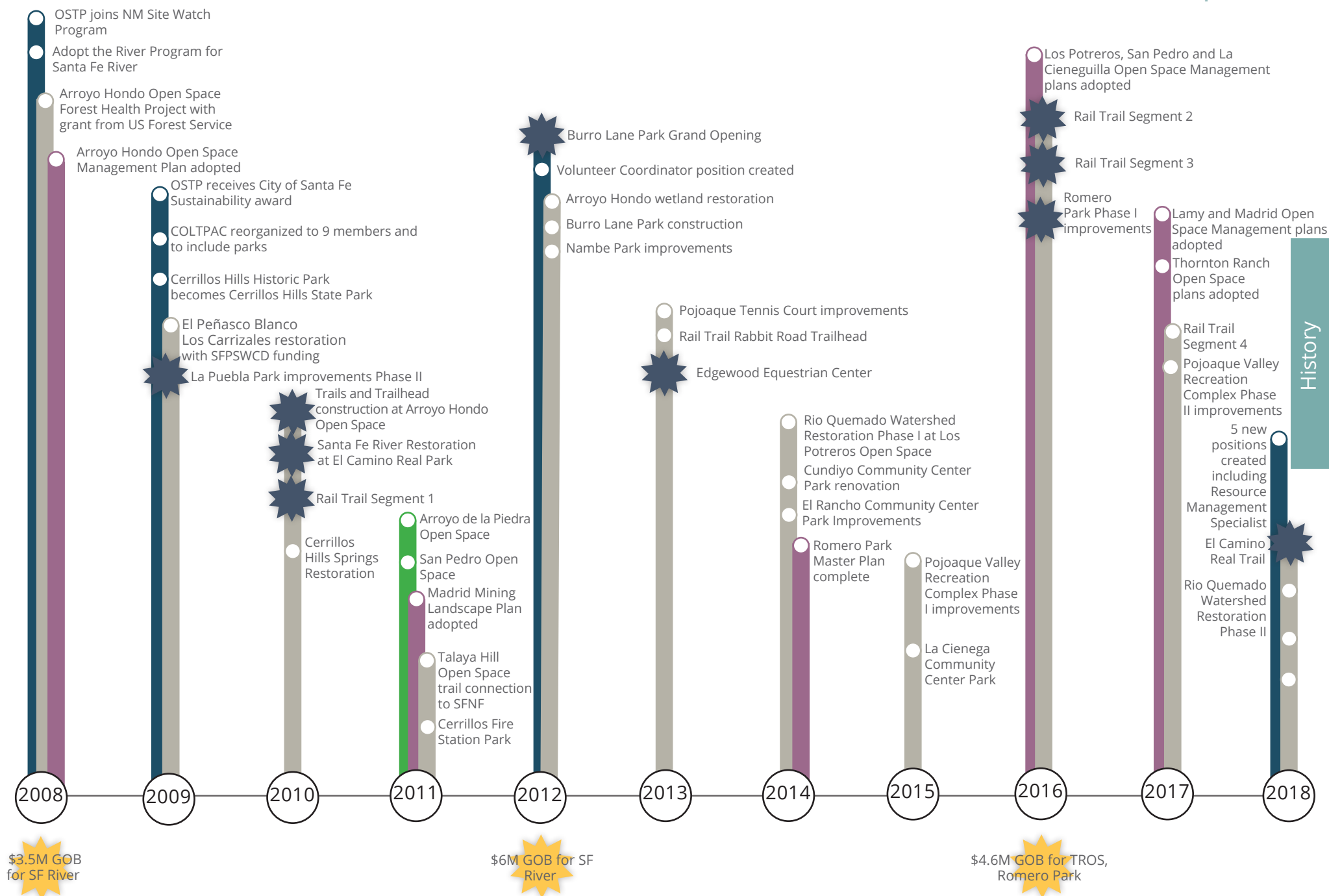
General Obligation Bond or
 Gross Receipts' Tax Influx

* Initial Acquisition



Grand Opening!





Property Inventory

This table includes all the Santa Fe County Open Space, Trail and Park Properties. This table describes the reason for purchase of open space property, or the vision for the trail connection.

Property	Facility Type	Trail Miles	Total Acres	Property Vision/ Reason for Acquisition	Access Status
Arroyo de la Piedra Open Space	Open Space	1.8	54.4	Trail connection between Dale Ball Trails and Little Tesuque Open Space & SFNF trails	Open
Arroyo Hondo Open Space	Open Space	3	86.8	Conservation, Passive Recreation / Trails	Open
Cerrillos Hills State Park	Open Space	6	1098.2	Cultural Resource Preservation, Passive Recreation, Interpretation and Public Education	Open
Edgewood Open Space	Open Space	3	29.8	Equestrian Arena, Trails for passive recreation	Open
El Peñasco Blanco Open Space	Open Space	---	93.4	Wetlands restoration, Conservation, Critical habitat	Undeveloped
El Rancho Open Space	Open Space	---	5.5	Cultural Resource Preservation	No Public Access
La Cieneguilla Open Space	Open Space	---	150	Conservation, River Restoration, Passive Recreation	Undeveloped
Lamy Open Space	Open Space	---	91.2	Cultural Resource Preservation (Galisteo Basin Archaeological Sites), Passive Recreation, Interpretation	Closed for Resource Management
Little Tesuque Creek Open Space	Open Space	1.72	161	Passive Recreation / Trails	Open
Los Caminitos Wilderness	Open Space	---	573	Conservation	Undeveloped
Los Potreros Open Space	Open Space	---	36*	Agricultural Conservation	Closed for Agricultural Management
Madrid Open Space	Open Space	---	57.3	Conservation, Passive Recreation / Trails	Undeveloped
Old Pecos Trail Open Space	Open Space	---	4.8	Conservation	Undeveloped
Ortiz Mountains Open Space	Open Space	6	1350	Conservation, Educational Tours	Guided tours only
Paseo Primero Open Space	Open Space	---	5.1	Conservation	Undeveloped
Rio en Medio Open Space	Open Space	0.5	121.3	Conservation, Passive Recreation	Open
San Pedro Open Space	Open Space	---	160	Conservation, Passive Recreation / Trails, Scenic Byway Preservation	Undeveloped
South Meadows Open Space	Open Space	---	22.2	Community Garden, Outdoor Classroom, Conservation, Public Education	Undeveloped
Talaya Hill Open Space	Open Space	7	290.5	Conservation, Passive Recreation	Open
Thornton Ranch Open Space	Open Space	---	1904*	Conservation, Cultural Resource Preservation, Passive Recreation, Interpretation and Public Education	Closed, Undeveloped
Arroyo Hondo Trail	Regional Trail	1.5	---	Alternative Transportation Corridor, Regional Trail	Under construction
Santa Fe Rail Trail	Regional Trail	12	---	Transportation Corridor / Regional Trail	Open, under construction
Santa Fe River Trail	Regional Trail	1	133.2	Conservation, River Restoration, Regional Trail / Transportation Corridor	Open, under construction
Spur Trail	Regional Trail	3		Transportation Corridor / Regional Trail	Open
El Camino Real NHT	Regional Trail	15		Regional Trail	Open

* Managed acreage is more

The park table indicates whether a Land, Water, Conservation Fund (LWCF) obligation is present at park properties. This requires Santa Fe County to maintain the park infrastructure at that location in perpetuity.

Property	Facility Type	Total Acres	Park Status	Access Status
Romero Park (Agua Fria Park)	Park	30.00	LWCF, R & PP	Open, under construction
Bennie J. Chavez Community Center Park	Park	0.50	LWCF	Open, under construction
Pojoaque Valley Recreation Complex	Park	11	LWCF	Open, under construction
Stanley Community Park	Park	0.50	LWCF	Open
Lamy Park	Park	50.00		Open
Chimayo Community Center Park	Park	0.20	LWCF, R & PP	Open
Pojoaque Tennis Court	Park	0.20	LWCF	Open
Galisteo Community Park (Phillip C Watts II Memorial Park)	Park	0.25	LWCF	Open
Burro Lane Park	Park	3.33	R & PP	Open
Leo Gurule Park	Park	4.00	LWCF	Open
La Puebla Park	Park	5.02	R & PP	Open
El Rancho Community Center Park	Park	0.05	LWCF	Open
Rio en Medio Community Center Park	Park	0.25	LWCF	Open
Nambe Community Center Park	Park	1.00		Open
Cerrillos Fire Station Park	Park	0.05		Open
Cundiyo Community Center Park	Park	.02	LWCF	Open
La Cienega Community Center Park	Park	.05		Open

LWCF - Land Water Conservation Fund

R & PP - Recreation and Public Purposes Act patent



Lamy Open Space and Park

What we have and why it's special



Arroyo de la Piedra Open Space

Arroyo de la Piedra Open Space was purchased in 2011 in order to connect the Dale Ball Trails to the Little Tesuque Open Space and the Santa Fe National Forest Trails. La Piedra Trail is a 1.6 mile trail that features strenuous climbs and winds through important piñon-juniper and ponderosa pine forest wildlife habitat. Climb to the top for a spectacular scenic overlook to the west with views of the area mountain ranges.



Arroyo Hondo Open Space

Acquired in 2002, the Arroyo Hondo Open Space conserves scenic hilltop vistas and valuable piñon-juniper and riparian wildlife habitat along the Arroyo Hondo while providing 3 miles of loop trails for outdoor recreation within easy reach of the city. The historic Arroyo Hondo Pueblo site and historic dam can be seen from various points along the trails, as well as beautiful panoramic views of the Galisteo Basin, Cerrillos Hills, and Ortiz Mountains.



Cerrillos Hills State Park

Cerrillos Hills State Park is located along the scenic Turquoise Trail in the Village of Cerrillos. Owned by Santa Fe County and managed by New Mexico State Parks, the Park totals 1,098 acres of important piñon-juniper wildlife habitat. The Cerrillos Hills are remnants of 30-million-year-old volcanoes that have eroded down over time and intruded minerals resulting in gold, lead and turquoise veins. The Park is one of the oldest mining areas in North America, including turquoise mining prior to 1000 AD and Spanish mines in the 17th Century.



Edgewood Open Space

Edgewood Open Space consists of an equestrian arena and other day-use facilities for horses and their riders. The facility includes a network of recreation trails.



El Peñasco Blanco Open Space

El Peñasco Blanco Open Space is located in the Traditional Historic Community of La Cienega. This 93-acre property was purchased in 2005 for the conservation of critical habitat and restoration of wetlands as well as preservation of community and cultural resources.



El Rancho Open Space

El Rancho Open Space was purchased in 2000 to preserve significant cultural resources. This 5.5-acre open space contains significant puebloan resources, as well as important acequia infrastructure that supports traditional agricultural practices in the area.

La Cieneguilla Open Space

The La Cieneguilla Open Space is a 150-acre County Open Space property along the Santa Fe River in La Cieneguilla. This property was the first open space purchased in the Open Space Program. In addition to a healthy riparian ecosystem, the property also includes juniper savannah and 360 degree views of the Santa Fe County landscape and the rural setting of the La Cieneguilla Land Grant.



Lamy Open Space and Park

Lamy Open Space and Park consists of two adjacent parcels. The 91-acre Open Space was purchased in 2002 to protect significant cultural resources listed in the Galisteo Basin Archaeological Sites Protection Act. The 50-acre park was developed as a passive recreation and picnic area for the community of Lamy and surrounding area. Lamy Open Space and Park provide spectacular views of the Galisteo Basin.



Little Tesuque Creek Open Space

Little Tesuque Creek Open Space is approximately 160 acres purchased in 2005. Shaded trails through valuable riparian wildlife habitat along the Little Tesuque Creek connect the adjacent Arroyo de la Piedra Open Space to the Santa Fe National Forest, maximizing conservation of valued landscapes open to the public for hiking, mountain biking, or horse riding.



Los Caminitos Wilderness Open Space

The Los Caminitos Wilderness consists of 573 acres of valuable piñon-juniper wildlife habitat adjacent to the Santa Fe National Forest.



Los Potreros Open Space

Acquired by the County between 2001 and 2004, the Los Potreros Open Space provides a scenic backdrop to El Santuario de Chimayo and is a present-day working landscape, exemplary of the traditional lifeways and culture of Northern New Mexico. This unique open space property includes diverse ecosystems, and is the confluence site of two perennial rivers. This 40-acre pasture was purchased to preserve traditional agricultural heritage including the traditional acequia system.



Madrid Open Space

The Madrid Open Space consists of 57 acres of open land on three contiguous properties that run through the center of Madrid. The Madrid Open Space is considered the backyard of the Madrid community, with many homes in immediate proximity. The community enjoys the quiet solitude of the open space, and many residents use it for daily walks.



What we have and why it's special



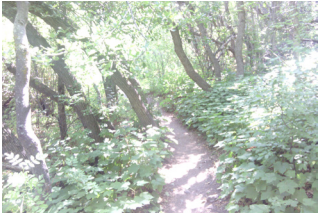
Ortiz Mountains Open Space

The Ortiz Mountains Open Space consists of 1,350 acres in the Ortiz Mountains, including Placer Peak - the highest peak in the Ortiz range - at 8,897 feet elevation. The property contains several historic mine shafts from the New Mexico gold rush in the mid-nineteenth century. Purchased in 2007 with the vision of conservation and preservation, the spectacular ponderosa and piñon-juniper habitat is home to black bears, coyotes, horned lizards, bats, and many species of birds. It is considered one of the most biodiverse and historically and ecologically special Open Space property in Santa Fe County.



Old Pecos Trail Open Space

The Old Pecos Trail Open Space was purchased in 2000 to preserve the landscape and views at this property. This property purchase had broad support from the neighboring communities.



Rio en Medio Open Space

Prime hiking through shady trees and lush green vegetation along the bubbling Rio en Medio, this open space adds over a hundred acres of high-value wildlife habitat and recreational trail lands to the surrounding Santa Fe National Forest. Wildlife and bird-watching opportunities abound. This property provides connection to the Santa Fe National Forest, and the popular Rio en Medio trail ends that at a waterfall in the forest.



San Pedro Open Space

The San Pedro Open Space consists of approximately 160 acres of piñon-juniper woodland. Acquired in 2011 for preservation of cultural resources, conservation of scenic landscapes and valuable wildlife habitat, the San Pedro Open Space was envisioned to provide a regional trail hub to connect adjacent public lands, including BLM, as well as Bernalillo and Sandoval Counties. The San Pedro Mountains also include numerous historic mining artifacts, and many areas are still used by recreational and amateur miners.



South Meadows Open Space

Slightly over 22 acres, the South Meadows Open Space was purchased in 2001 with visions to become an outdoor space for a rapidly developing area of Santa Fe. Planning for the park includes unstructured play areas, a community garden, a local trail network, and an outdoor classroom for public education and conservation programs.



Talaya Hill Open Space

Conveniently located between the eastern foothills of the City of Santa Fe and the Santa Fe National Forest, the Talaya Hill Open Space is one of the most accessible and well-loved of open space properties. Providing nearly seven miles of trails with connections to the Dale Ball and Santa Fe National Forest trails, this space provides ample opportunity for outdoor recreation with outstanding views, while also conserving valuable wildlife habitat.

Thornton Ranch Open Space

The Thornton Ranch Open Space is the largest Santa Fe County Open Space property. The property was purchased to protect the significant cultural resources on the property from private development and to provide opportunities for public interpretation of the unique landscape of the Galisteo Basin. In 2004, the United States Congress passed the Galisteo Basin Archaeological Site Protection Act to protect the nationally significant archaeological resources in the Galisteo Basin including a site within the Thornton Ranch Open Space. The property includes valuable habitat for a variety of wildlife species.



El Camino Real Trail

El Camino Real Trail follows an alignment of El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro, a designated National Historic Trail. This historic trade route brought sheep, goats, burros, and chickens as well as royal decrees, mail, mission supplies, and private merchandise to the Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo from as far south as Mexico City. This route of El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro connects the Santa Fe River to the visually spectacular Diablo Canyon approximately 15 miles away.



Santa Fe Rail Trail

This shared-use path is mostly within NMDOT along the historic NM Southern Railway. This “rail with trail” project was designed to highlight railroad history. The trail currently connects the historic Santa Fe Depot to Eldorado for a total of 12 miles of trail. There are plans to connect the trail to the community of Lamy.



Santa Fe River Trail

The Santa Fe River Trail is a multi-jurisdictional project to restore the Santa Fe River. This important corridor is used by Santa Fe residents and visitors alike for transportation and recreation. To date, 2.7 miles of the Santa Fe River have been restored with plans for six more for river restoration into the traditional communities of La Cieneguilla and La Cienega.



Spur Trail

The Spur Trail provides a very important connection from the Santa Fe Rail Trail to the Community College District. Ultimately, this trail will connect to the Arroyo Hondo Trail which will provide important connections east and west in the identified development focus area (known as Sustainable Development Area-1 (SDA-1)) for alternative transportation and recreation opportunities.



Management Landscapes

Management Landscapes focus project areas and opportunities as well as prioritize areas for collaborative landscape management and partnership development.

Area identification process

Management Landscapes are focus areas that have been identified by through this planning process. Project areas direct prioritization of management, projects and programming activities, as well as new infrastructure, including new trail systems, trailheads, visitor centers, etc. The below criteria was used to identify project focus areas. There may be other areas in the County with potential for projects that have not been identified on this map.

Project areas are designated by criteria:

Criteria 1: Clusters of Santa Fe County Open Space properties.

Criteria 2: Adjacency of public land to existing Open Space properties.

Criteria 3: Opportunity for partnerships (with public and private entities).

Criteria 4: Opportunity for recreation, trail connections, and expansion of existing networks.

Criteria 5: Nearby Community support.

Criteria 6: Existing project investments, including capital investments and management plans.

Criteria 7: Related environmental and habitat factors that have similar management needs.



View of the Galisteo Basin from Cerrillos

Management Landscape and Trail Corridor Descriptions

There are several management landscapes where Santa Fe County will focus activities. Management Landscapes are prioritized because they leverage Santa Fe County assets in areas where preservation and recreation goals can be met by working with partner agencies, community groups and others.

One of the primary ambitions of the 2000 Open Land and Trails Plan (OLTP) was to ensure that open spaces were distributed equally throughout the county. Over the past 18 years of implementing the OLTP, it has become apparent that users and needs for open space opportunities are different in the various areas of the County. The distribution and type of open space, trail and park facilities should reflect the regional needs and user patterns. Reflecting these regional needs is a more efficient and effective way of providing open space and trail opportunities to County residents.

Management Landscapes take into account the different regional needs of each area in the County.

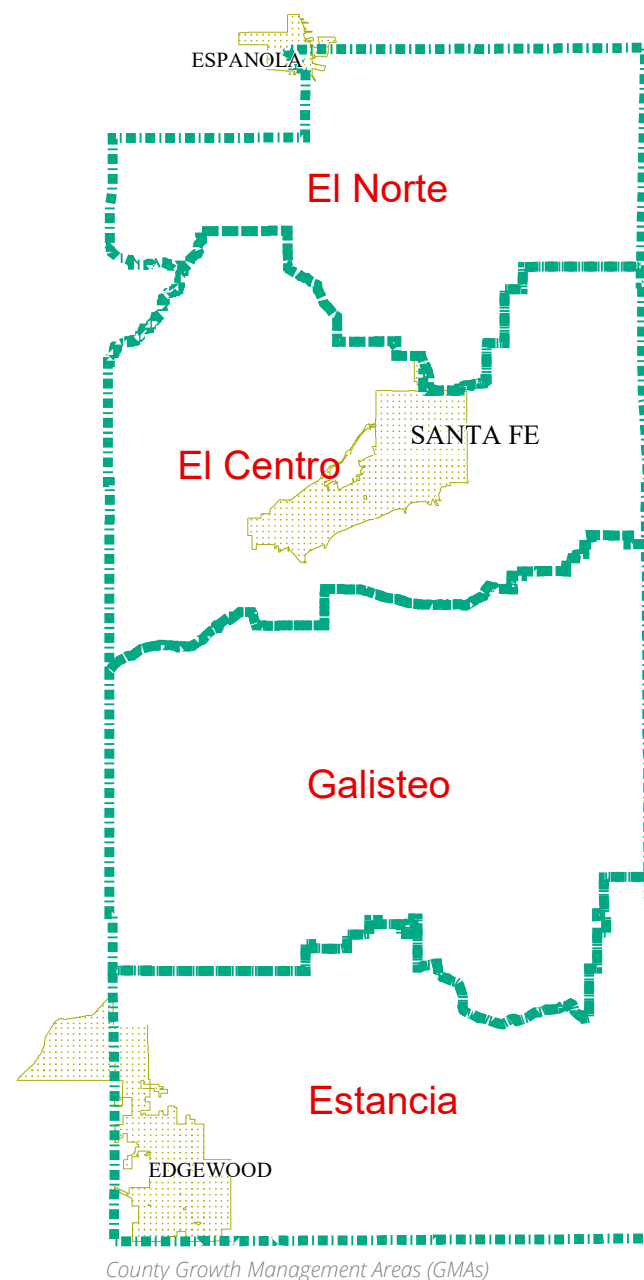
El Norte—there is a desire for parks, active recreation facilities and access to public lands.

El Centro—trails for transportation and recreation, as well as land conservation

Galisteo—landscape wide conservation and recreation opportunities

Estancia—trails and regional trail connections—especially long distance trails for riding horses

Trail corridors are important features within Management Landscapes. These trail corridors connect Management Landscapes, and provide important recreation and transportation opportunities throughout Santa Fe County.



Regional Trail corridors

Regional Trail corridors have special designation because they provide regional connections to open spaces and public lands. These are long distance trails that serve all non-motorized users including equestrians, bicyclists and pedestrians.

Santa Fe River Trail

This project is a major river restoration project that includes a trail in an urban and semi urban context. It provides transportation and recreation opportunities for city and county residents. The trail begins in the heart of the City of Santa Fe and continues along the Santa Fe River. At this time the trail is conceptually designed to the Wastewater Treatment Plant, with plans to continue the trail on a smaller scale into the communities of La Cienega and La Cieneguilla. This is a trail with regional and environmental importance. Coordination with the City of Santa Fe is important in the development of the next phase of planning and construction.

Arroyo Hondo Trail

The Arroyo Hondo Trail is a District Trail as identified in the Community College District Plan. The plan identifies a network of District-wide trail corridors as part of the open space system to make connections to neighborhoods, commercial centers and open space. This trail provides transportation and recreation opportunities that connect the Rail Runner Station at NM 599 to the Santa Fe Community College. This trail is conceptual at this time, but is a focus project for construction in the near term.

Santa Fe Rail Trail to Lamy

The Santa Fe Rail Trail is a regional transportation and recreation facility that is co-managed by the City of Santa Fe and Santa Fe County. The trail is currently constructed from the Santa Fe Depot along the Santa Fe Southern rail spur to Avenida Eldorado. The trail was designed as a shared use, bicycle, pedestrian and equestrian trail that follows AASHTO and ADA standards for multi-use transportation trails along an active railway. Conceptual design for this trail exists to Spur Ranch Road. Construction of the trail to Spur Ranch Road is imminent. Additional plans to connect this regional trail to Lamy Open Space and the community of Lamy need to be fleshed out.

El Camino Real

El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro retrace trail is a National Historic Trail and currently connects the Santa Fe River to Diablo Canyon. Future connections can be made to the Jacana Land Grant as well as the Rio Grande. This regional spine can connect many loops within the Caja del Rio region.

NM Central

The New Mexico Central Rail Corridor is a conceptual idea at this time. The New Mexico Central Railroad (also known as the Frijoles Line) was a standard-gauge railroad that provided freight service (primarily for agricultural products) along with limited passenger services between Santa Fe and Tarrant County. The New Mexico Central line was active for only 23 years but has made a lasting impact on the landscape. The abandoned rail grade provides an exceptional opportunity to provide a unique trail experience that connects the City of Santa Fe to Thornton Ranch Open Space, and beyond to connections in Tarrant County.

ATSF Lamy to Cerrillos

Plans to connect Lamy Open Space to Thornton Ranch Open Space to Cerrillos Hills State Park along the ATSF railroad right of way are conceptual at this time. A segment of the regional trail will be constructed through Thornton Ranch Open Space.

Bonanza Creek Connection

There may be opportunities to connect the Cerrillos Hills Management Landscape to the La Cienega Management Landscape along Bonanza Creek. Plans are conceptual at this time. The San Marcos Community Plan, currently being updated, identifies the desire to have trail connections in the area.

NM 14

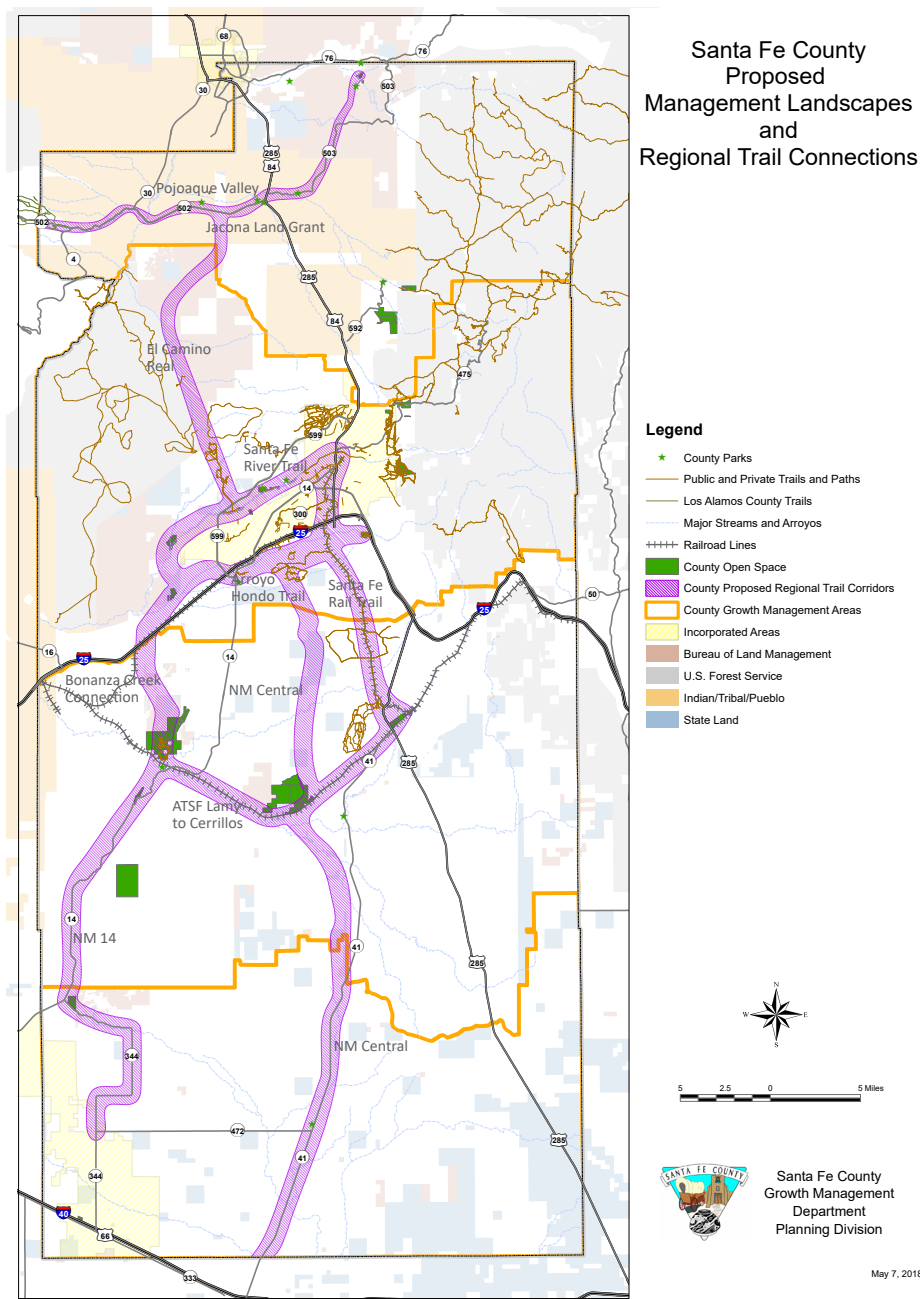
There are many open space properties along NM 14. This scenic byway has many recreational cyclists already traveling along the route. Connections to open spaces could be made, as well as connections to the Town of Edgewood.

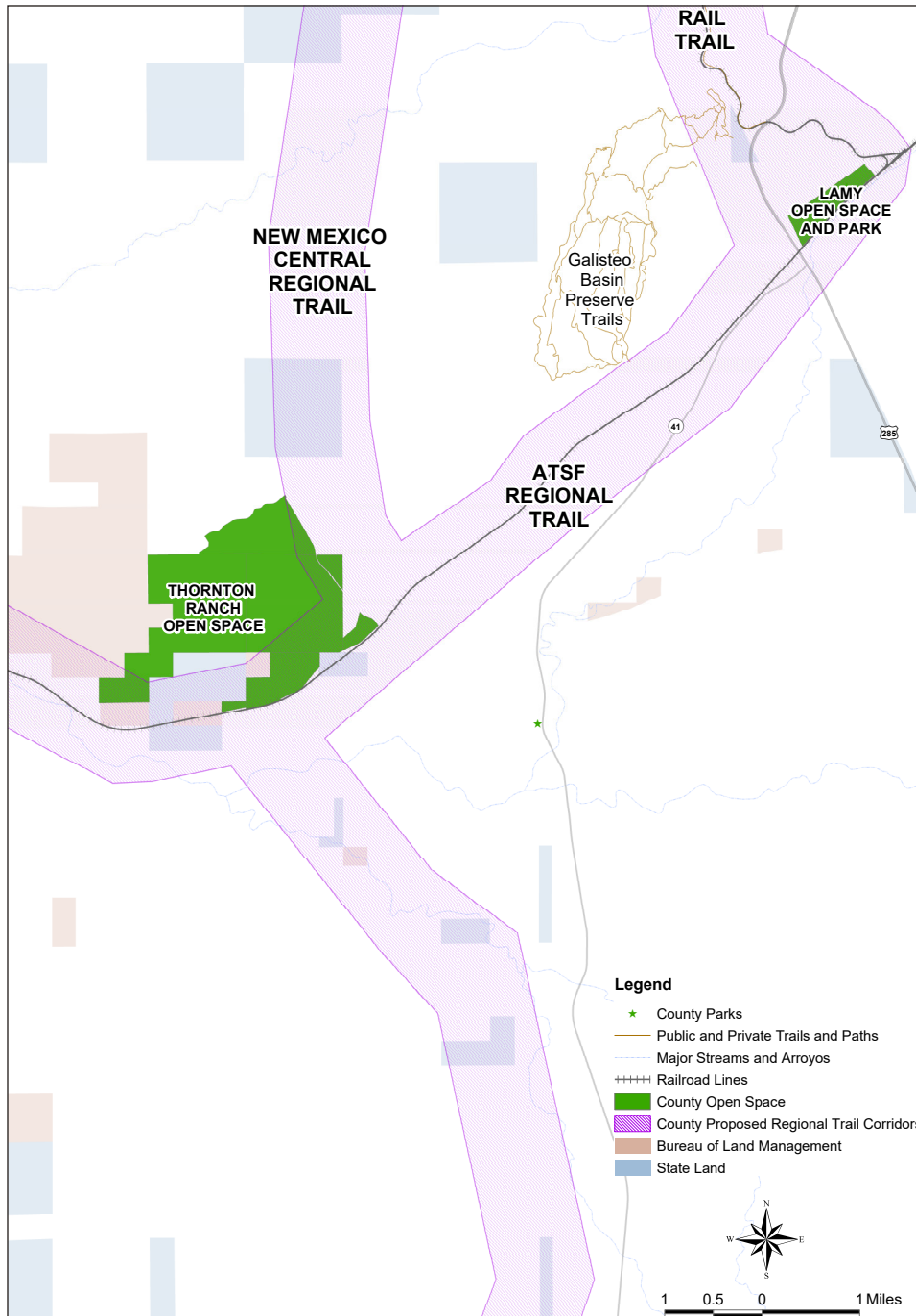
Jacona Land Grant

Working with the members of the Jacona Land Grant, a trail connection could be made from the Caja del Rio area and El Camino Real Trail to a potential alignment of the Rio Grande Trail.

Pojoaque Valley

The Pojoaque Valley has potential to complete an east-west connection along NM 502 and NM 503. This could connect Chimayo and BLM trails in that area to trail networks in Los Alamos County.





Thornton Ranch-Lamy

County owned properties:

- Thornton Ranch Open Space
- Lamy Open Space
- NM Rail Trail

Future County projects

- NM Central Regional Trail
- ATSF Regional Trail

Other Landowners/ Partners

- Galisteo Basin Preserve
- BLM
- SLO
- NM DOT Rail Bureau
- SHPO

Management Objective:

This management landscape unit includes the Thornton Ranch Open Space and the Lamy Open Space. Privately owned, publicly-accessible trails at the Galisteo Basin Preserve could connect to future regional trails including the Santa Fe Rail Trail, the NM Central Regional Trail, and the ATSF Regional Trail.

Santa Fe County will be focusing efforts and investments especially in the Thornton Ranch Open Space and developing the regional trail connections to that property in the near term. Lamy Open Space and Park has a management plan that outlines priority activities there, including citizen science monitoring and community involvement.

From a wildlife management perspective the Thornton Ranch-Lamy and Madrid-Cerrillos management units will be managed similarly. Both units contain similar habitat, are relatively close in proximity, and contain similar species of conservation concern, including Pinyon Jay, a wide-ranging, nomadic species. Additionally, in the future, collaboration with neighboring property owners for important projects, such as the creation of wildlife corridors between these open space properties, could create even more important benefits for wildlife.

Madrid- Cerrillos

County-owned properties:

- Cerrillos Hills State Park
- Madrid Open Space
- Ortiz Mountains Open Space
- Mt Chalchihuitl acquisition (pending)

Future projects

- ATSF Regional Trail
- Grand Central Trail—County/NMSP/ BLM
- Madrid Rail Spur connection
- Bonanza Creek connection

Other Landowners/ Partners

- BLM
- SLO
- NM State Parks
- Madrid Landowners
- Cerrillos Hills Park Coalition

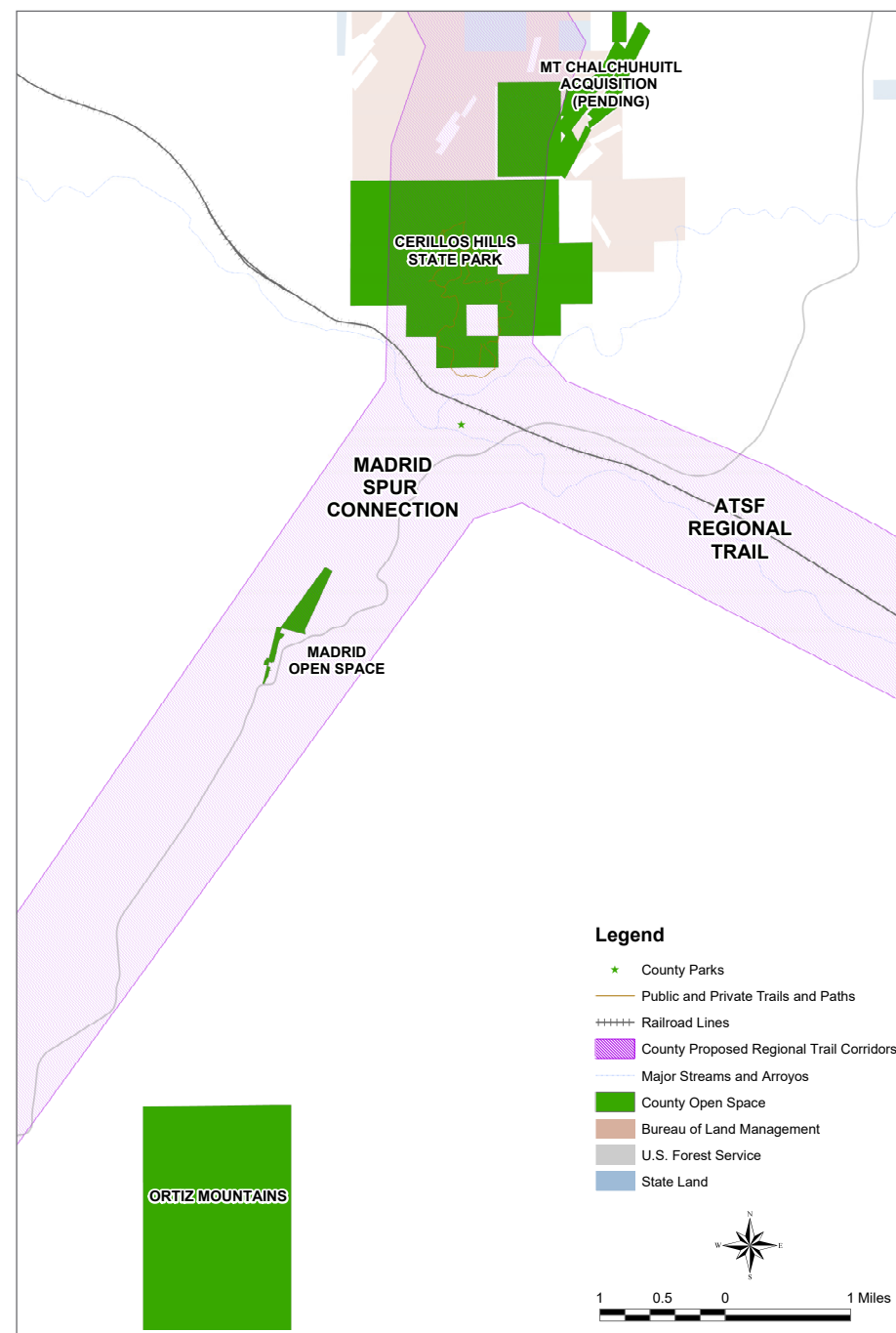
Management Objective:

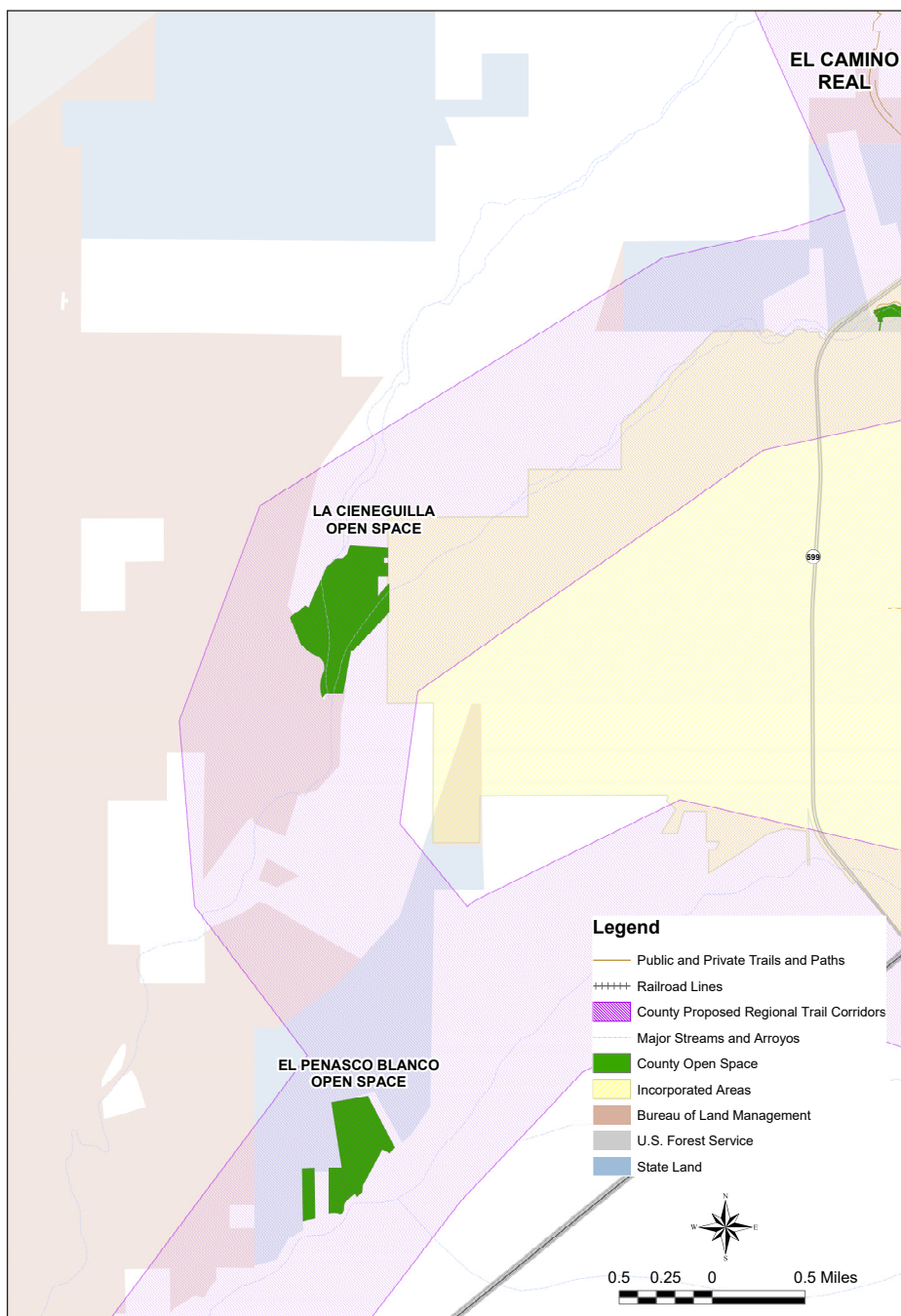
This management landscape unit includes Madrid Open Space, Cerrillos Hills State Park, and the pending Mt. Chalchihuitl Open Space. BLM is adjacent. There are opportunities to expand the area under management of New Mexico State Parks to include the Mt. Chalchihuitl area. There are also private inholdings that Santa Fe County and BLM should coordinate on acquisition to facilitate effective management of the landscape unit. Additional opportunities exist to connect the Cerrillos area to Madrid three miles away via an old rail spur.

Ortiz Mountains

Management Objective:

The Ortiz Mountains Open Space contains wildlife species not found on any other open space property. Given its geographic location, and habitat types, this property contains species with a more southerly range, such as Black-chinned Sparrow. This, combined with its distance from other open space properties, means it is necessary to manage it as its own unit. In the future, collaboration with neighboring property owners in the Ortiz Mountains, including the gold mine, could help accomplish landscape-scale wildlife management and conservation. Access to Ortiz Mountains Open Space needs to be addressed. Property management will be a priority; as management actions are developed projects will be identified including trail development, educational programming, safety and hazard mitigation and ecological improvements.





La Cienega Area

County-owned properties:

- La Cieneguilla Open Space
- El Peñasco Blanco Open Space
- La Bajada Ranch

Future projects

- Santa Fe River Trail extension
- Caja del Rio connections
- Bonanza Creek connection

Other Landowners/ Partners

- BLM
- HIPICO Santa FE
- SF Girls School
- Las Golondrinas
- City of Santa Fe

Management Objective:

The La Cienega Area Landscape Management Unit includes the La Cieneguilla Open Space, El Peñasco Open Space and La Bajada Ranch. Trail connection opportunities include extending the Santa Fe River Trail through La Cienega and La Cieneguilla to connect to La Bajada Ranch, as well as trails in the City of Santa Fe, creating a trail loop system. Other trail opportunities include providing connections to the Caja del Rio unit of the Santa Fe National Forest and BLM land in the La Cienega ACEC area.

Managing this area for high conservation need species, such as Bendire's thrasher and monarch butterflies, is particularly important.

Foothills Trails Area

County-owned properties:

- Talaya Hill Open Space
- Arroyo de la Piedra Open Space
- Little Tesuque Creek Open Space
- Rio en Medio Open Space
- Los Caminitos Open Space
- Arroyo Hondo Open Space

Future projects

- Rail Trail/ AHOS trail connection
- Enhancement of Rio en Medio trailhead/access
- Connection from SFNF to Los Caminitos Open Space

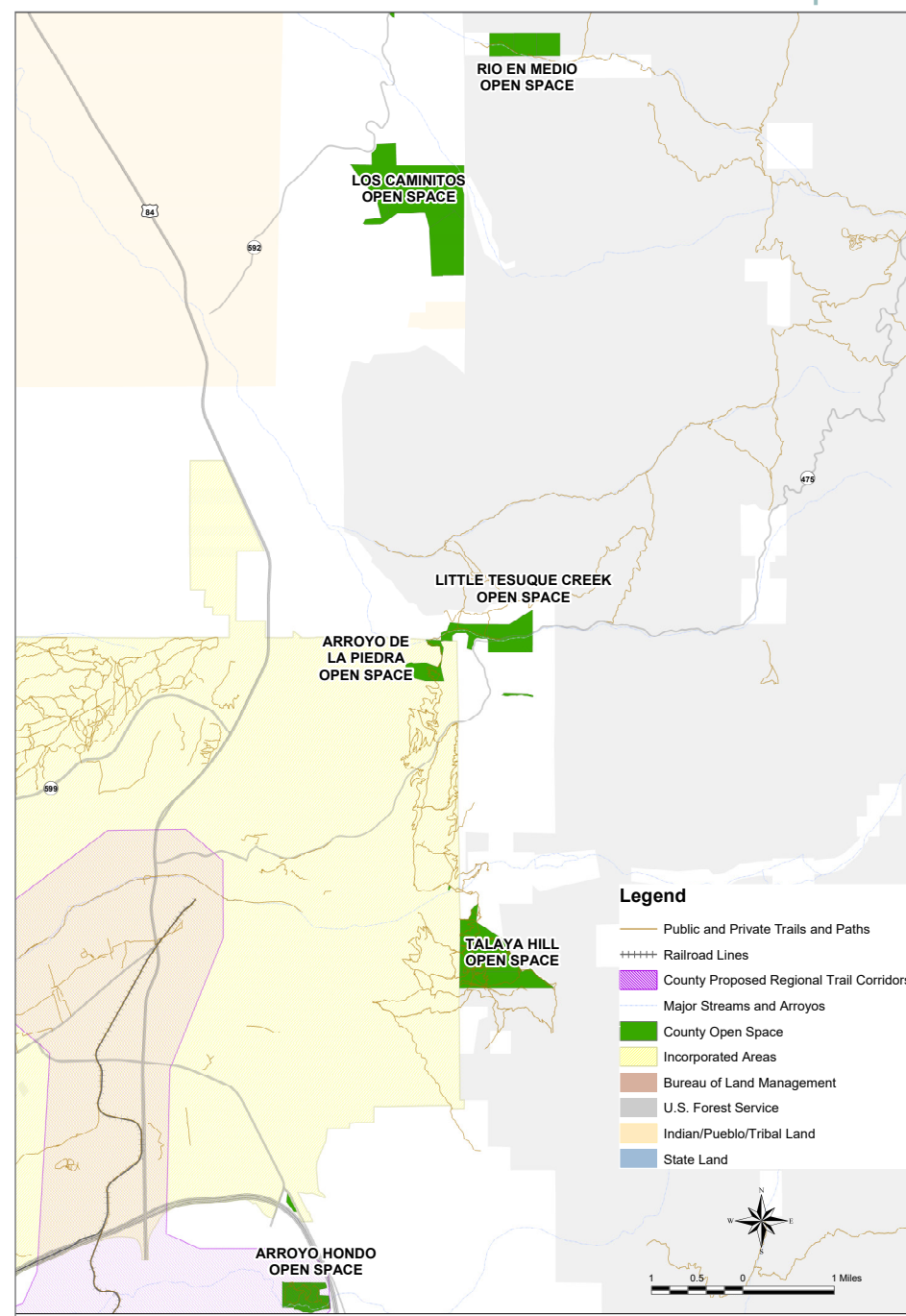
Other Landowners/ Partners

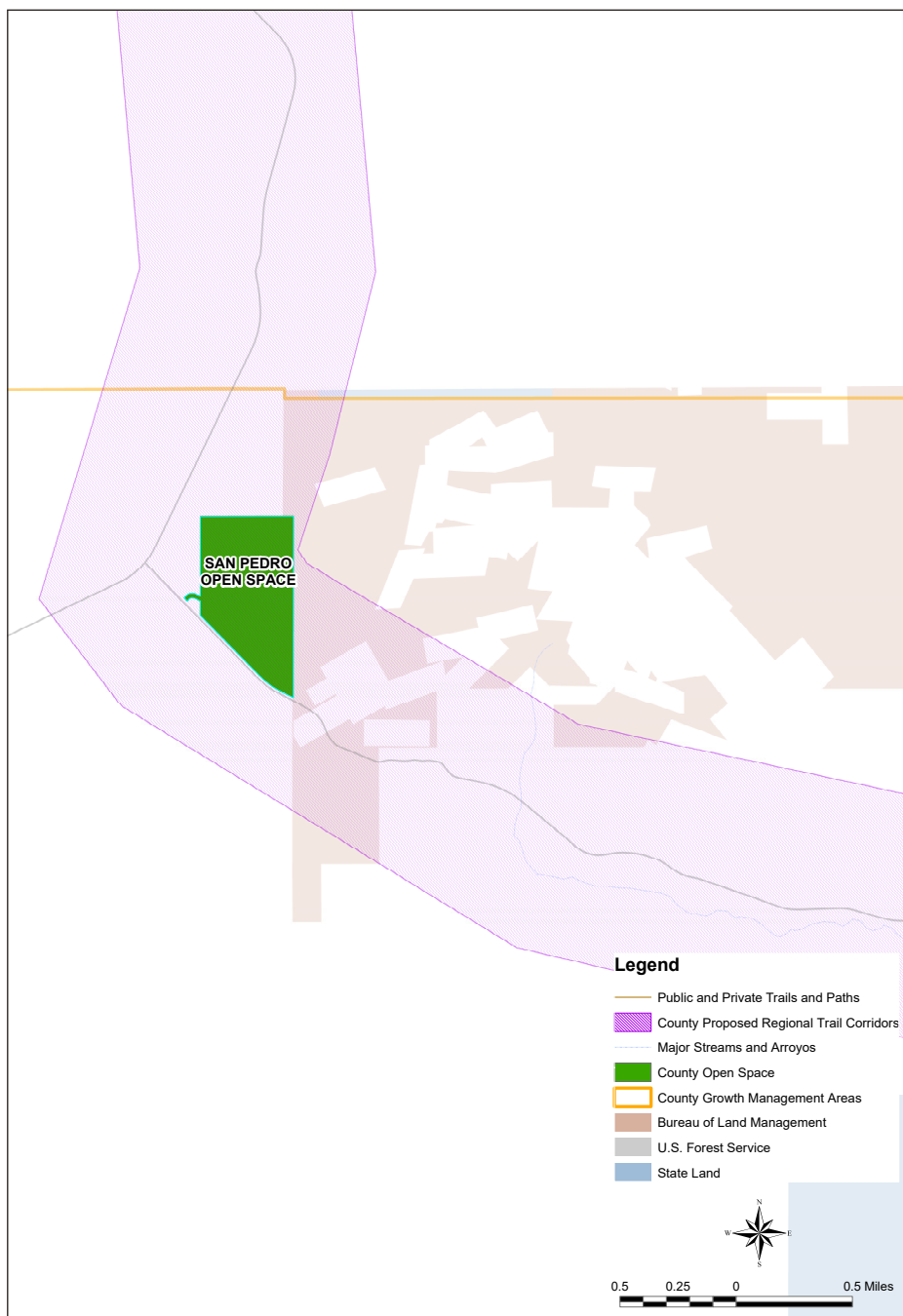
- SFNF
- City of Santa Fe
- Santa Fe Conservation Trust (Atalaya Trail)
- The Nature Conservancy

Management Objective:

The Foothills Trails area provides connections to Santa Fe National Forest. Projects should be coordinated with SFNF and the neighboring communities in order to effectively provide connections as well as manage user conflicts and traffic impacts in the area. While it is not feasible to connect trail systems at Arroyo Hondo to the other foothills trails, the piñon-juniper hills at Arroyo Hondo contain many of the same species of conservation concern as piñon-juniper habitats in the other foothills properties, including Pinyon Jay, a wide-ranging, nomadic species.

This landscape management until will be managed especially for wildlife, as well as for the recreation opportunities. Collaboration with neighboring property owners for important projects, such as the creation of wildlife corridors, could create even more important benefits for wildlife.





San Pedro

County-owned properties:

- San Pedro Open Space

Future projects

- Connection to BLM
- Regional Trail Planning

Other Landowners/ Partners

- BLM
- City of Albuquerque
- Bernalillo County Open Space
- Sandoval County
- Town of Edgewood
- East Mountains Regional Trails Council (EMRTC)

Management Objective:

San Pedro Open Space was purchased with the intent of becoming a regional trail hub in the southern part of Santa Fe County. This property is adjacent to BLM property where a trail network could be developed. Additional trail systems in the area are managed by City of Albuquerque, Sandoval and Bernalillo Counties and the Town of Edgewood. The East Mountains Regional Trails Council is a community group that coordinates with all the local agencies on open space and trail matters. Trail connections should be explored to connect all the networks in the region.

Landscape-scale wildlife habitat management could be accomplished through collaboration with the BLM, as well as other neighboring property owners.

Los Potreros

County-owned properties:

- Los Potreros Open Space
- Chimayo Community Center Park
- Bennie J. Chavez Community Center Park

Future projects

- Connection to BLM

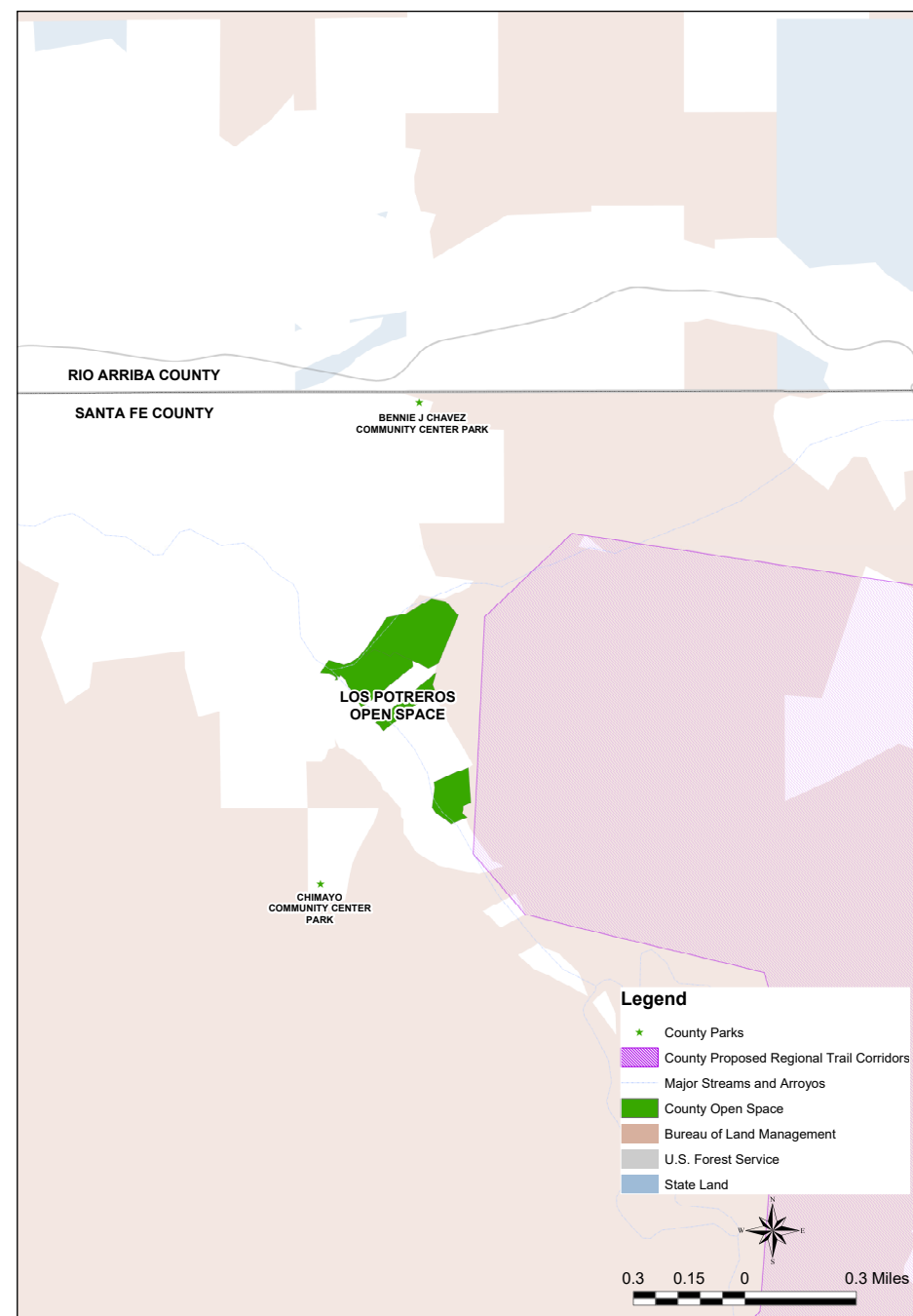
Other Landowners/ Partners

- BLM

Management Objective:

Los Potreros Open Space is an agricultural property that preserves the rich agricultural heritage of Northern New Mexico and the Chimayo area. Preserving the scenic backdrop to El Santuario de Chimayo in a way that highlights the agricultural heritage of Chimayo is a community priority. Landscape management of El Potrero, ‘the pasture,’ includes preservation of the grasslands and the associated acequia infrastructure. Trail connections to the adjacent BLM property from both park locations should be considered in the future.

Los Potreros contains highly unique wildlife habitat (compared to all other open space properties) that requires it be managed as its own unit. Its unique wet meadow habitat contains breeding boreal chorus frogs, a species of high conservation concern. Because of the unique habitat and species at Los Potreros, wildlife management actions will differ from all other open space properties. Management actions will also prioritize agricultural practices and opportunities.



Property Classification

The Property Classification begins to address how properties are developed in order to be consistent with the vision of the property when it was developed. This classification guides how intensely the property will be developed for recreation, but also guides how the public will visit the property, what types of educational programming will be provided, and what resource management needs may be present.

Land in the County's Open Space, Trails and Parks Program has been categorized for management purposes. By classifying the types of open space, the County can better determine appropriate management practices for an area. Land classifications were developed for the three types of facilities in Santa Fe County Open Space, Trails and Parks.

Open Space

Preserve

- Limited access
- Educational programming focus
- Can include sensitive environment, special habitat, endangered species, archaeology, agriculture

Preserves protect the underlying natural or cultural resources of the land. Preserves are lands where public access is limited to protect the resources of the property. These resources could include sensitive habitats with threatened or endangered species, viewsheds, riparian corridors, grasslands, agricultural lands and/or archaeological sites. They have limited, controlled public access points, with public use restricted to designated trails. Off-trail use is limited to occasions when a need for access is scientifically or educationally-based. The County or partners manage the resources to meet the particular management needs of each preserve.

Conservation Area

- Open access, could have seasonal closure
- Passive recreation, some educational programming

Access to conservation areas is open except as needed for special management issues. Conservation Areas may have natural resource management needs that are seasonally related, such as nesting seasons or migratory periods, agricultural uses, or unique cultural or historical features. Public use may be limited in some cases for the protection of rare plants or wildlife, or cultural sites, and are always limited to passive recreation uses such as equestrian use, walking, hiking, photography and bird watching.

Class I:

Class I properties are managed to optimize biodiversity and cultural resource protection in areas closed to the public, and to minimize impacts to biodiversity and cultural resources in areas open to the public. In general, any damage to natural or cultural resources should be equally balanced by the benefits of keeping areas open to the public (e.g. health benefits, connection to nature, etc.). Should this balance be majorly disrupted, temporary closures of areas, or redirection of recreation to more suitable areas, may be necessary.

- Limited, controlled access points
- Access is limited to certain parts of the property
- Limited intensity/ scope of development

Class II:

Class II properties are managed to optimize biodiversity and cultural resource protection, and guided tours are designed to create minimal impact; should guided tours start to create a large impact, property may be closed temporarily to allow areas to recover, or the frequency and location of guided tours may be changed.

- Closed, except by guided tour
- Limited future infrastructure development
- No current infrastructure that allows access

Class III:

Class III properties are managed to optimize biodiversity and protect cultural resources

- No public access

Some open space properties are unclassified at the time of developing this plan. As plans for each properties are developed, a class will be specified or updated.



El Rancho Open Space, Class I Preserve



Madrid Open Space, Class II Conservation Area



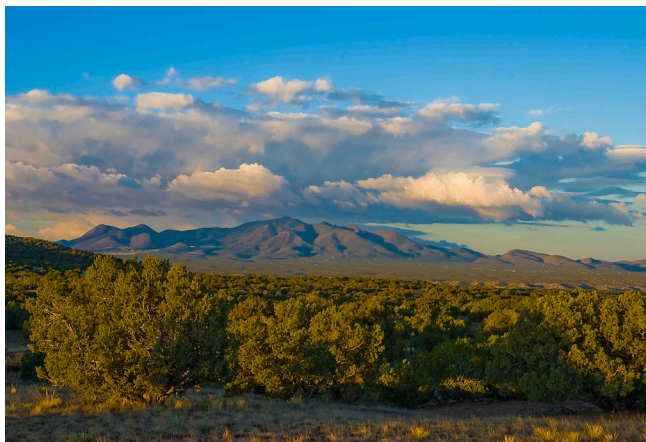
Lamy Open Space, Class III Preserve

Preserves have limited access, focus on education, and protect natural or cultural resources of the land.

Conservation areas have open access, recreation opportunities, and educational programming.

Open Space Classification

Property	Facility Type	Land Classification	Class Type	Access/ status
Edgewood Open Space	Open Space	Recreation Facility	I	Open, developed
Lamy Open Space	Open Space	Preserve	III	Limited, undeveloped
Thornton Ranch Open Space	Open Space	Preserve	I	Closed, in development
San Pedro Open Space	Open Space	Preserve	I	Limited, undeveloped
El Peñasco Blanco Open Space	Open Space	Preserve	II	Limited, undeveloped
Los Potreritos Open Space	Open Space	Preserve	II	Limited, developed
Ortiz Mountains Open Space	Open Space	Preserve	II	Limited, in development
Santa Fe River Preserve	Open Space	Preserve	II	Limited, undeveloped
El Rancho Open Space	Open Space	Preserve	III	Closed
Arroyo de la Piedra Open Space	Open Space	Conservation Area	I	Open, developed
Arroyo Hondo Open Space	Open Space	Conservation Area	I	Open, developed
Cerrillos Hills State Park	Open Space	Conservation Area	I	Open, developed
Little Tesuque Creek Open Space	Open Space	Conservation Area	I	Open, developed
Rio en Medio Open Space	Open Space	Conservation Area	I	Open, developed
Talaya Hill Open Space	Open Space	Conservation Area	I	Open, developed
Los Caminitos Wilderness	Open Space	Conservation Area	II	Limited, undeveloped
Madrid Open Space	Open Space	Conservation Area	II	Open, undeveloped
South Meadows Open Space	Open Space	Conservation Area	II	Limited, undeveloped
La Cieneguilla Open Space	Open Space	Conservation Area	II	Limited, undeveloped
Old Pecos Trail Open Space	Open Space	Conservation Area	-----	Limited
Paseo Primero Open Space	Open Space	Conservation Area	-----	Limited



The Ortiz Mountains, classified as Class II Preserve



Cerrillos Hills State Park, classified as a Class I Conservation Area

Trails

Trails will be designed and constructed in accordance with the following trail types. Where this classification does not provide enough guidance, the Forest Service Trails Management Handbook will be used for rural trails, and AASHTO Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities will be used. In urban to rural transitions, special exceptions to the guidelines may be considered. Current ADA Accessibility Guidelines will also be used for accessible trail designs.

Regional Trail

Trails in this category are designated due to their regional scope. These trails are usually wide with both a transportation and recreation function. These major trails are for non-motorized users, including pedestrians, equestrians and bicyclists.

Community Trail

Community trails connect regional trails to local trails.

Local Trail

Trails within open space properties are considered local trails. These trails are narrow, natural-surface facilities. Any use restrictions are designated per individual open space property as terrain and environmental conditions dictate.

Trail type	Experience	Use	Width	Surface	Setting
Regional Trail	Rural	Transportation and recreation	2'- 4' (6' maximum in special cases)	Natural surface, crusher fines	Natural look
	Urban	Transportation and recreation	10' - 14' (8' minimum in special cases)	Paved, firm and stable	Natural look
Community Trail	Rural	Transportation and recreation	18" - 30"	Natural	Natural look
	Urban	Transportation and recreation	8' - 10'	Firm and stable	Natural look
Local Trail	Rural	Recreation	12" - 18"	Natural, single track	Natural look
	Urban	Recreation	5' - 8'	Firm and stable	Natural look



Santa Fe Rail Trail, a regional trail



A community trail connector to the Santa Fe Rail Trail



Local trail at Arroyo Hondo Open Space

Parks

The parks classification is used as a guideline for amenity development. Parks are currently classified using a regional standard that uses size of the facility as the mechanism for categorization. Given the rural nature of Santa Fe County, service radius and function of the park is a better method for classification of OSTP Park facilities. As additional analysis of the OSTP parks is conducted, park classifications will be refined and properties will be reclassified to include service radius and function of the park.

Regional Park

Regional parks are well developed facilities with active recreational uses such as equestrian activities or programmed sports. These facilities require high levels of amenity development and significant management oversight.

Community Park

Community parks are larger facilities, usually 20-50 acres. These facilities serve a $\frac{1}{2}$ – 3 mi area and can include facilities such as playground equipment, ball fields and grass areas, organized play areas, gathering and picnic areas and other amenities.

Neighborhood Park

Neighborhood parks are small parks up to 10 acres. They serve a $\frac{1}{4}$ – $\frac{1}{2}$ mi area, and can include facilities such as playground equipment, community gardens, and gathering space.

Mini Park

Miniparks are services provided in conjunction with county facilities. This type of facility is very small, usually playground equipment or a ball court.



Romero Park, a regional park



Lamy Park, a community park



Burro Lane Park, a neighborhood park



Nambe Community Center Park, a mini park

PARKS AND TRAILS CLASSIFICATION TABLES

Park Type	Size (acres)	Location	Recreation Type Uses	Amenity Types
Regional Park	80-150 acres	Accessible from major roads	Active and passive	Recreation facilities such as ball fields, lighting, lawns, picnic areas, trails and connections, playgrounds
Community Park	20-50 acres	1/2 mile - 3 miles	Active and passive	Ballfields, courts, trails, picnic areas, playgrounds
Neighborhood Park	7-10 acres	1/4 mile- 1/2 mile	Active	Picnic areas, playgrounds
Mini Park	less than 1 acre	1/4 mile- 1/2 mile	Active	Playgrounds

Property	Facility Type	Classification	Total Acres	Park Status	Access Status
Romero Park (Agua Fria Park)	Park	Regional Park	30.00	LWCF, R& PP	Open, under construction
Bennie J. Chavez Community Center Park	Park	Mini Park	0.50	LWCF	Open, under construction
Pojoaque Valley Recreation Complex	Park	Regional Park	11	LWCF	Open, under construction
Stanley Community Park	Park	Mini Park	0.50	LWCF	Open
Lamy Park	Park	Community Park	50.00		Open
Chimayo Community Center Park	Park	Neighborhood Park	0.20	LWCF, R& PP	Open
Pojoaque Tennis Court	Park	Neighborhood Park	0.20	LWCF	Open
Galisteo Community Park (Phillip C Watts II Memorial Park)	Park	Mini Park	0.25	LWCF	Open
Burro Lane Park	Park	Neighborhood Park	3.33	R& PP	Open
Leo Gurule Park	Park	Neighborhood Park	4.00	LWCF	Open
La Puebla Park	Park	Neighborhood Park	5.02	R& PP	Open
El Rancho Community Center Park	Park	Mini Park	0.05	LWCF	Open
Rio en Medio Community Center Park	Park	Mini Park	0.25	LWCF	Open
Nambe Community Center Park	Park	Mini Park	1.00		Open
Cerrillos Fire Station Park	Park	Mini Park	0.05		Open
Cundiyo Community Center Park	Park	Mini Park	.02	LWCF	Open
La Cienega Community Center Park	Park	Mini Park	.05		Open

* LWCF - Land Water Conservation Fund

** R&PP - Recreation and Public Purposes Act patent

Trail	Classification	Experience	Total Miles	Trail Status	Access Status
Arroyo Hondo Trail	Regional Trail	Urban	3	conceptual, priority for construction	Phase IV under construction, 1.2 miles
Canada Ancha Trail	Community Trail	Rural		conceptual, undeveloped	Open, under construction
Santa Fe Rail Trail	Regional Trail	Urban - rural	12	8 Miles open, 4 miles concept; in development	Segment 5 under construction, 1.2 miles
Santa Fe River Trail	Regional Trail	Urban	9	2 miles open, 12 miles concept; in development	Open, under construction
Spur Trail	Community Trail	Urban	3	constructed, to be included in Arroyo Hondo Regional Trail	Open
El Camino Real	Regional Trail	Rural	15	constructed	Open

Program Structure

The Open Space program is an interdepartmental program with staff and resources in the Growth Management, Public Works and Community Services Departments. The numbers of open space staff have grown since 2000. Currently, the open space program has 12 positions directly dedicated to OSTP activities and 4 staff positions partially dedicated to OSTP in the Growth Management, Public Works and Community Services departments.

Public Works- Facilities maintenance:

- Foreman
- 8 maintenance technicians
- Facilities Operations Manager

Public Works- Projects:

- Project Manager
- Santa Fe River Trail Project Manager

Community Services:

- Volunteer Coordinator

Growth Management/ Planning:

- Senior Planner, Open Space and Trails
- Resource Management Specialist
- Planning Projects Manager



County Staff and non-profit partners at a Civilian Conservation Corps era dam, La Piedra Open Space



Volunteers at Cerrillos Hills State Park

The staff coordination diagram on the next page shows how communications flow between the different sections of the Open Space program. The sections of OSTP include planning, project development, resource management, and stewardship. Communications have to be streamlined in order to effectively implement projects for resource protection and restoration, public access, and daily operations.

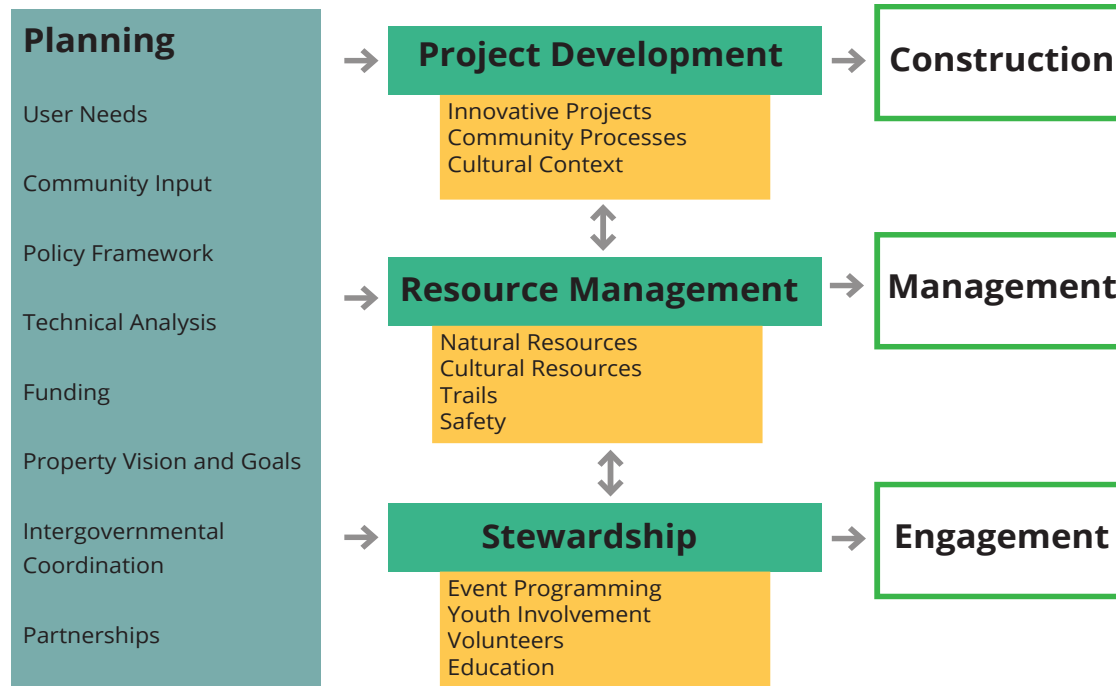
Open Space staff in the planning division coordinate communications with internal staff, outside agencies, and community stakeholder groups. Planning staff use technical analysis; community input and user needs; property vision; and the county policy framework to make decisions relating to new projects and user requests. Open Space planning staff navigate public requests by facilitating and attending collaborative partner and stakeholder meetings. This collaborative planning facilitates the decision making process with internal staff, other agencies and the public, and helps identify community interests and user needs. Staff in the planning division also coordinate program development for the overall program and coordinate with partners on larger, regional aspects of OSTP.



Cactus hike at Arroyo Hondo Open Space



Hike to Placer Peak, Ortiz Mountains Open Space



Staff coordination diagram

Planning staff guides open space staff in project development, resource management and stewardship activities for consistency with the open space plan and community stakeholder input, as well as consistency with best management practices and environmental stewardship.

Project development uses input from planning and the community to expand ideas for projects to take them to an implementable stage. The focus of project development is to create innovative projects to provide access and contextually appropriate solutions to open space needs.

Resource management preserves natural and cultural resources and develops restorative ecological projects for open space properties as needed. Resource management works with planning and project development to develop sustainable trail construction and maintenance projects.

Stewardship works with planning and resource management to implement appropriate projects with partners, volunteers and other land management agencies. This could include developing and providing educational event programming and working to enhance youth involvement, as well as coordinating volunteers to work with maintenance and resource management staff.

COLTPAC Role

Following the adoption of the 2015 SGMP and the implementation of this Strategic Plan, staff and COLTPAC are recommending a refinement of the role of COLTPAC to better serve the Open Space and Trails Program as it evolves in addressing resource management, property maintenance, and public access. COLTPAC will best serve the County by coordinating with staff to focus on the following roles related to open space, trails, and parks:

- Evaluation and recommendations for county-wide and site-specific planning management of open space, trails and parks;
- Specialized review and study of specific issues relating to open space and trail projects;
- Review and advise on annual work plan;
- Review proposals and recommendations for property acquisition for open space, trails, and parks;
- Assist County staff with developing public outreach, stewardship development and partnering with other organizations and entities to advance Open Space program initiatives.

The BCC determines OSTP policies and goals and directs staff to implement these decisions. The Board appoints COLTPAC to function as an advisory committee on matters related to OSTP. Staff coordinates with COLTPAC to provide input on OSTP. Specialized expertise that will benefit OSTP projects should be considered when appointing COLTPAC members. The focus of the committee should be to advise staff and the Board on planning and development of the OSTP program, and not regarding operations. COLTPAC was not established by the Board as an advocacy committee.



COLTPAC Members at Thornton Ranch Open Space, 2017

Planning History Framework

Many past planning efforts have informed the development of this Strategic Plan. Other agencies and departments have completed plans that are interrelated and consistent with the goals of the Santa Fe County Open Space program. These plans don't need to be reproduced, but include important aspects that should be highlighted in order for effective coordination. The plans and important collaborative items are outlined in this section.

Sustainable Growth Management Plan (SGMP)

The 2015 Santa Fe County Sustainable Growth Management Plan (SGMP) is the comprehensive plan for the unincorporated portion of the County that comprises the future direction over planning, environmental protection, public facilities and services, fiscal planning, land use, housing, resource conservation, renewable energy and green development policies, administrative regulation and development application processes. This plan outlines the strategy that directs the relationship between Santa Fe County, its residents and the environment regarding the SGMP elements.

The SGMP outlines principles which are core concepts for county-wide sustainability. These principles are interrelated: Environmental Responsibility; Economic Strength and Diversity; and Community Livability and Quality of Life. Numerous strategies and goals outlined in the SGMP relate to OSTP including: permanent protection and restoration of open space, creation of an interconnected trail system, development of a community-based stewardship and management program for open space lands, promotion of education and outreach regarding natural and cultural resource protection, and development of strong coordination and partnership with other landowners in the county. The SGMP also provides long-term goals for open space protection in Santa Fe County.

The SGMP describes demographic information throughout the county, and among population centers and communities. The plan provides an outline of the different regions and what types of needs and services, including open space, trails and parks, should be provided as the population grows.

Santa Fe County Open Land and Trails Plan 2000

The Santa Fe County Open Land and Trails Plan (OLTP), developed in 2000, outlined an ambitious plan to protect open space in Santa Fe County. The OLTP established long-term strategies for open land and trails conservation, and provided guidance for the developing open space program in matters of evaluating, acquiring, and managing parks, open land and trails. This new strategic plan will build upon the goals of the 2000 plan by building and enhancing a countywide network of open land and trails, promoting landscape-scale open space conservation, developing educational programs for the public, and implementing a resource management and monitoring program for the thousands of acres purchased since the writing of the 2000 plan.

Santa Fe County Economic Development Plan

The Santa Fe County Economic Development Plan identifies six economic growth areas, one of which is ecotourism and outdoor recreation. Within this growth area, mountain biking and equestrian trail riding are identified as the outdoor recreation segments with the most growth potential. This plan also recognizes that economic development comes out of enhanced quality of life. This plan is currently being updated; coordination with this update process should be addressed.

Santa Fe County Agriculture and Ranching Implementation Plan

The Santa Fe County Agriculture and Ranching Implementation (ARI) Plan recognizes a multi-faceted, action-oriented approach to conservation of land and agricultural resources. Sustainable food production and conservation of our natural resources, including land and water are two high priority county goals that aren't always mutually exclusive. The ARI Plan identifies opportunities for collaboration with OSTP; open space properties as potential agro-ecological demonstration sites.

Community Plans

Within Santa Fe County numerous community plans have been developed, all of which feature open space access and environmental protection as important aspects for their respective communities. All community plans include a desire to protect open space and develop an interconnected network of community trails that connect to open space properties as well as outline the importance of wildlife and landscape conservation including protecting and conserving water resources and the natural environment, including local wildlife and native plants.

Santa Fe County Open Space Management Plans

Individual management plans exist for several open space properties including Los Potreros, La Cieneguilla, San Pedro, Madrid, Lamy and Thornton Ranch Open Spaces, and are in development for the remainder. These plans help to implement the broad goals of the Sustainable Growth Management Plan by providing detailed objectives for individual properties. Management plan objectives include such items as: trail development, implementing a monitoring program for natural and cultural resources, conducting habitat restoration, installing educational features, and more.

Santa Fe Metropolitan Bicycle Master Plan

The Santa Fe Metropolitan Bicycle Master Plan coordinates transportation planning and other bicycle-related planning within the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) area which includes a central portion of Santa Fe County. The vision of this plan is to provide convenient bicycle and pedestrian access along a comprehensive network of multi-use trails and complete streets, connecting neighborhoods and communities, parks, open space, schools, and commercial centers for residents and visitors. The Bicycle Master Plan outlines priorities for trail development, and safety improvements of existing bicycle infrastructure. Potential collaborative action between these two plans include: improving bicycling infrastructure for safe transportation, promoting Santa Fe County as a prime outdoor recreation destination, and providing education for bicyclists and motorists.

Santa Fe National Forest Plan

The Santa Fe National Forest borders several county open space properties. Like the Santa Fe County Sustainable Growth Management Plan, the Santa Fe National Forest Plan places an emphasis on collaboration. The following areas of collaboration with the Santa Fe National Forest are of particular interest: management of shared borders and their habitats, collaboration regarding research and management for at-risk species, collective invasive species management, and shared management of recreational impacts. The Santa Fe National Forest Plan is currently being revised. As this revision is finalized, collaboration of new or altered management areas should be addressed.

BLM Taos Resource Management Plan

Bureau of Land Management (BLM) property borders several Santa Fe County open space properties. Like the county, the BLM places an emphasis on landscape-scale management and the protection of at-risk species. The county will collaborate with BLM to manage larger landscapes for recreational access and biodiversity. Additionally, the county will collaboratively manage at-risk species with the BLM. BLM has shifted the emphasis of recreation from an activity-based approach to one that focuses on recreation experiences and benefit. Several areas have been identified by BLM for special management and recreation opportunities and Santa Fe County should coordinate goals for consistent management across the broader landscapes, including:

La Cienega Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC)—contains important cultural, riparian, and scenic values, including wildlife and plant habitat. El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro National Historic Trail is managed within this unit to protect, and interpret the important cultural and scenic values. This area includes the Cieneguilla Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA)

Galisteo Basin ACEC—manages the area encompassed by the Galisteo Basin Archaeological Sites Protection Act which recognizes 24 cultural sites within the Galisteo Basin as having national significance. The area has removed grazing, and allows trail and recreation development. This area includes the Burnt Corn- Cerrillos SRMA which provides opportunities for coordination at multiple OSTP properties including Cerrillos Hills State Park and Thornton Ranch Open Space. This area also includes the San Pedro Mountains SRMA adjacent to San Pedro Open Space.

Santa Fe Ranch ACEC—includes the area around the Diablo Canyon area to protect cultural resources, unique geological features, visual resources, and wildlife habitat. This area includes the Diablo Canyon SRMA. Additional SRMAs including La Puebla and Santa Cruz Lake are in the area; coordination with OSTP properties in the area (including Los Potreritos Open Space) should be considered.

The plans below will guide resource management and implementation of best practices for open space management.

New Mexico Rare Plant Conservation Strategy

The 2017 New Mexico Rare Plant Conservation Strategy, produced by the Forestry Division of the New Mexico Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department (EMNRD), identifies much of Santa Fe County as an Important Plant Area. Goals and objectives of the Rare Plant Conservation Strategy include: protection and restoration of rare plant species on county open spaces, and increased education and outreach directed at rare plants.

New Mexico State Wildlife Action Plan

The 2016 State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP), written by the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, is an assessment of New Mexico's wildlife and habitats. Santa Fe County contains four of the six ecoregions identified in the plan: Southern Rocky Mountains, Colorado Plateaus, High Plains and Tablelands, and Arizona/New Mexico Mountains. For each ecoregion, the plan identifies Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN), as well as habitat threats. The SWAP will be used by Santa Fe County to account for SGCN habitat needs when managing properties, as well as to address identified habitat threats.

New Mexico Bird Conservation Plan

The New Mexico Bird Conservation Plan was written by the New Mexico Avian Conservation Partners (NMACP), which is the state chapter of Partners in Flight. As part of this plan, an evaluation regarding the vulnerability of all bird species in New Mexico was conducted using a slightly modified Partners in Flight method. Santa Fe County will use this plan to identify bird species of concern on open space properties, and will conduct habitat management and monitoring for high priority species identified in the plan, such as pinyon jay and Grace's Warbler.

Partners in Flight Landbird Conservation Plan

Partners in Flight (PIF) is a collaborative organization with the mission of "keeping common birds common and helping species at risk through voluntary partnerships". The 2016 revision of the Landbird Conservation Plan identifies a watchlist of bird species of highest conservation concern in the United States and Canada. Watchlist species are identified through a rigorous, peer-reviewed scientific assessment process. Santa Fe County open space properties contain numerous watchlist species, including pinyon jay and gray vireo. This strategic plan will use the PIF Landbird Conservation Plan to identify, manage, and conserve birds of high conservation concern. The county will also use the Landbird Conservation Plan to prioritize monitoring and research efforts on species of highest conservation concern.

North American Monarch Conservation Plan

The monarch butterfly is a species of high conservation need that occurs on numerous open space properties. This plan will guide management for monarch butterflies on OSTP properties.

Conserving Bumblebees: Guidelines for creating and managing Habitat for America's Declining Pollinators

This plan will guide management for the declining western bumblebee and other bee species on OSTP properties.



Townsend's big-eared bat, a species of conservation concern. National Park Service.



Gunnison's prairie dog has declined up to 98% across its range, and is a species of conservation concern. Fish and Wildlife Service.



Pinyon jay, a watchlist species of high conservation concern found on Santa Fe County Open Spaces. Wallace Keck/National Park Service.



Increasingly rare Round-tailed Horned Lizards frequent many OSTP properties, including Thornton Ranch Open Space. © 2010 Joshua Emms

Chapter 2: Strategy

This chapter describes the planning framework, OSTP Directives and Core Elements, and outlines key issues, identifies objectives that address the issues and describes the actions to reach the objective.

Planning Framework outlines how this plan coordinates with other planning documents.

OSTP Directives specifically determine and direct all implementation actions of this plan.

OSTP Core Elements are fundamental concepts for implementation of the OSTP directives.

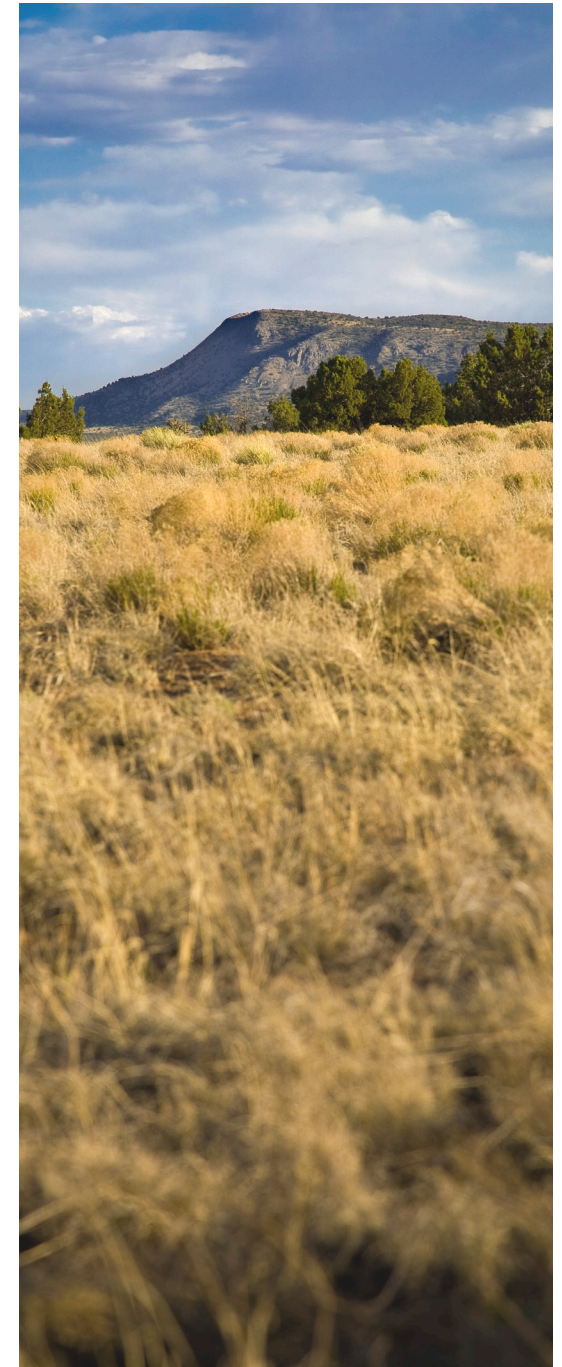
Issues, Objectives and Actions:

Key issues identify needs and challenges that have slowed progress towards accomplishing the vision of the OSTP program.

Objectives identify the approach to address the issue.

Actions are tools used to make progress towards meeting the objective.

Objectives and actions are organized by OSTP section, Planning and Program Development; Resource Management, Educational Programming and Stewardship; and Project Development and Implementation.

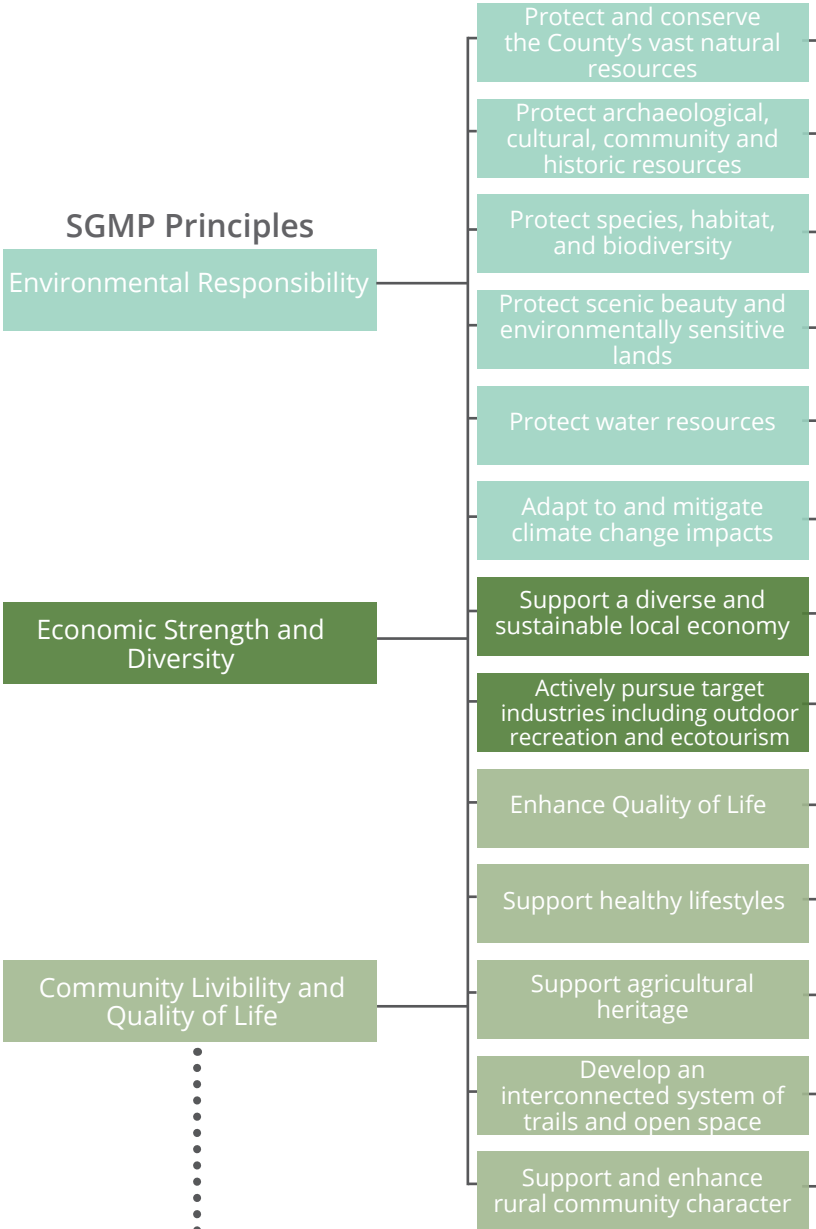


Cerro Pelon in the distance, from Thornton Ranch Open Space

SGMP Framework & OSTP Directives

SGMP Keys to Sustainability

SGMP Framework

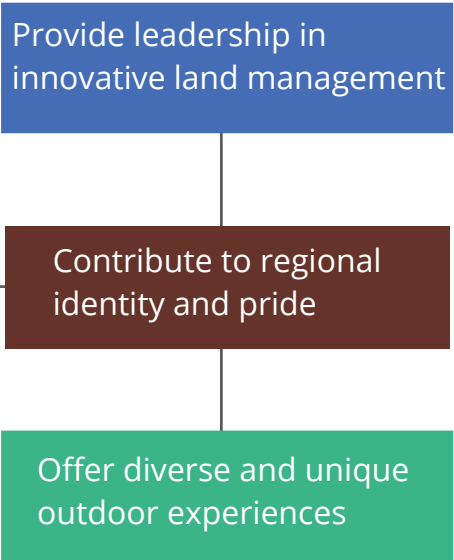


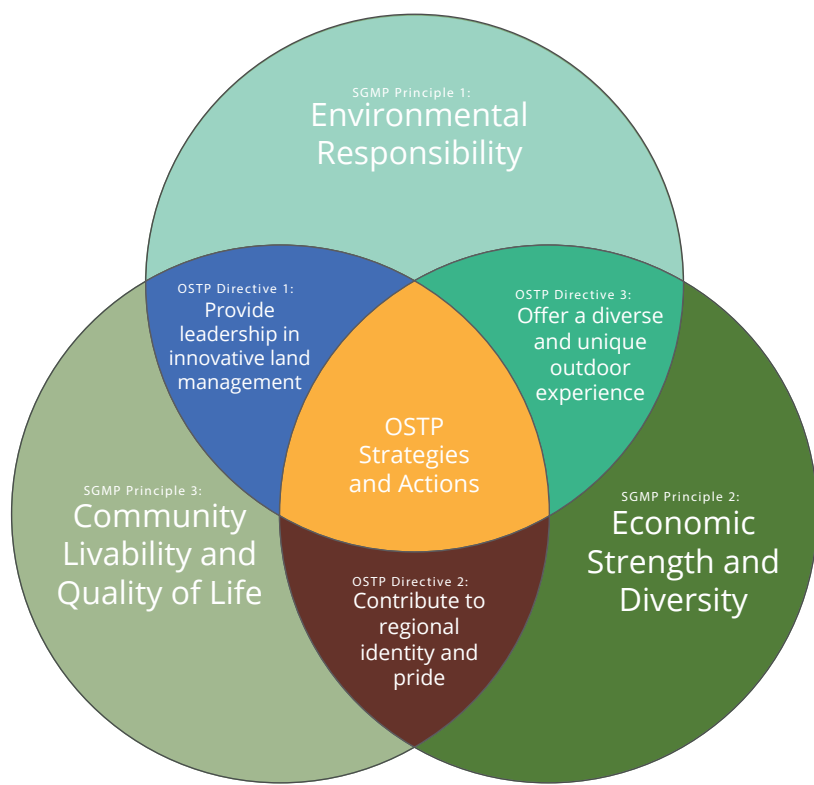
This strategic plan has been developed in alignment with the Sustainable Growth Management Plan (SGMP) framework. The **OSTP Directives** were developed using the **SGMP Principles** and **Keys to Sustainability**, as well as communications with residents, stakeholders, COLTPAC, volunteers, outside agencies and county staff.

This OSTP Strategic Plan uses the **SGMP Principles** and **Keys to Sustainability** as high-level, overarching fundamental principles to implement **SGMP Goal 22** to "Acquire, preserve, and maintain a significant amount of land to support a network of public and private open space, trails and parks through the County."

This SGMP Goal as it relates to OSTP is very broad and has been streamlined and targeted into three distinct **OSTP Directives** which guide the goals for the OSTP program.

OSTP Directives





Interrelated roles of SGMP and OSTP

OSTP Directives specifically determine and direct all implementation actions of this plan.

The **OSTP Directives** are unique to Santa Fe County and clearly communicate how the program will lead by example to sustainably manage landscapes, and to provide unique and innovative outdoor experiences that inspire stewardship of open land for current residents, visitors, and future generations. The OSTP directives are interrelated and found throughout this Plan.

OSTP Core Elements are fundamental concepts for implementation of the OSTP directives. Core Elements are detailed on page 51.

The **OSTP Core Elements** were adapted and expanded to reflect Santa Fe County values and needs from the SHIFT (Shaping How we Invest For Tomorrow) Principles adopted by Colorado Parks and Wildlife and outlined by The Center for Jackson Hole.

The OSTP Core Elements promote an outdoor ethic in thoughtful conservation and recreational enjoyment of Santa Fe County's unique landscapes. By adopting the SHIFT Principles as the Santa Fe County OSTP Core Elements, OSTP is aligning with leaders in the conservation and outdoor recreation movement to promote conservation stewardship for current and future generations.

The SGMP Principles and the OSTP Directives are interrelated concepts that guide the development and management of projects and properties. The Strategies and Actions outlined later in this plan are a product of the intersection of all the goals as illustrated in the graphic, left.

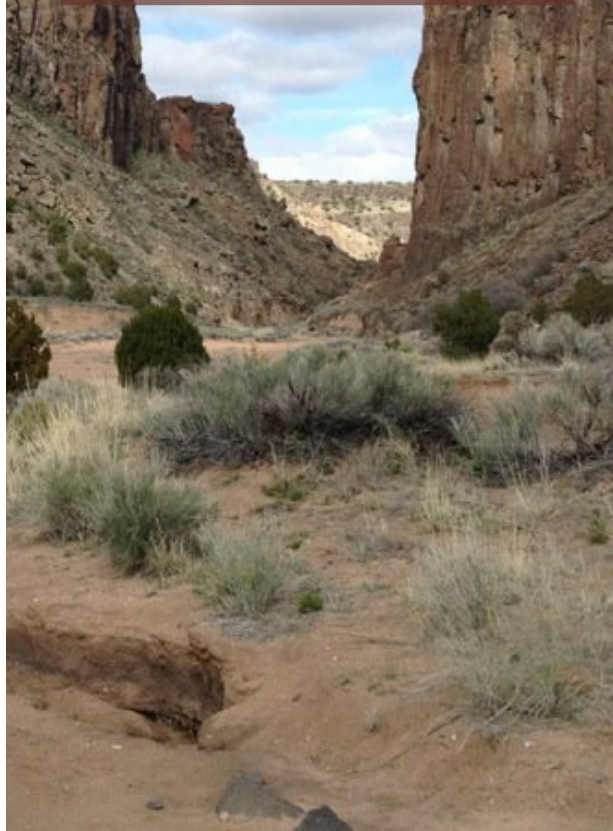
OSTP Directives

Santa Fe County OSTP will lead by example to demonstrate **innovative, science-based and collaborative land management practices** that promote natural and cultural conservation, environmental habitat restoration, and adaptability.



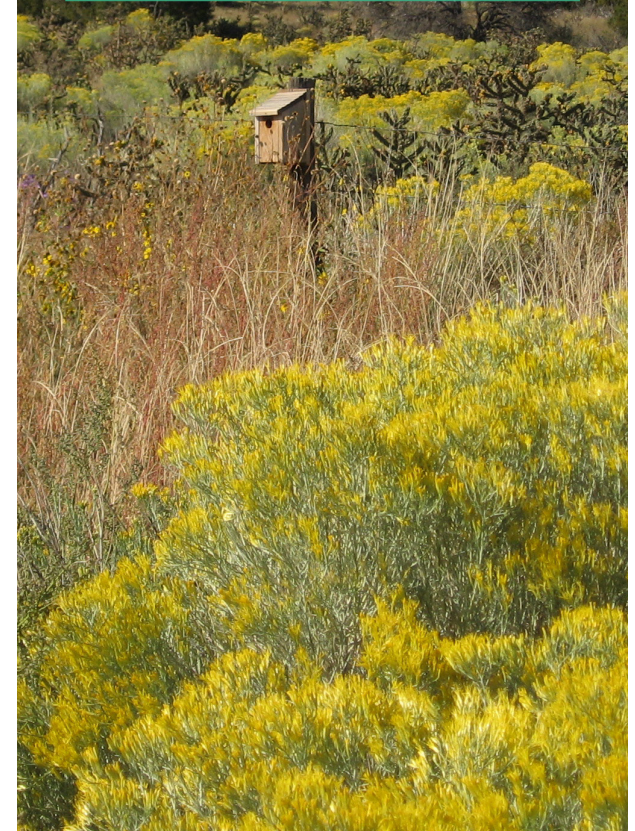
Looking west from the Ortiz Mountains

Santa Fe County OSTP will **contribute to the regional identity** that is unique to Santa Fe County and deepen the sense of community pride in order to inspire stewardship in current and future generations.



El Camino Real Trail at Diablo Canyon

Santa Fe County OSTP will **offer diverse and unique outdoor experiences** that celebrate our special landscapes and traditional communities in a way that enhances the quality of life for residents and grows life-long conservation and stewardship ethics.



Santa Fe Rail Trail

OSTP Core Elements

1. **Working Together** - Conservation and outdoor recreation require that a diversity of lands and resources be available for public access, and cared for properly. Public and private groups working together play a critical role in conserving the ecological integrity of a functional landscape that is necessary for robust and meaningful landscape-wide conservation.
2. **Mutually Beneficial** - Both conservation and recreation are needed to sustain quality of life in Santa Fe County. Both are beneficial to local economic well-being, for personal health, and for sustaining Santa Fe County's natural and cultural resources by building support for protection and stewardship.
3. **Diverse Support** - Conservation and recreation in Santa Fe County must reflect, respect and value the many demographics and diversity of our communities and be culturally relevant to each of those different groups.
4. **Minimize Impact** - All recreation has impacts. Santa Fe County residents have an obligation to minimize these impacts across the places they recreate and the larger landscape through responsible and ethical outdoor behavior that respects the value of connecting all people to the outdoors for future generations.
5. **Stewardship and Education** - Proactive management solutions, combined with active public education are necessary to care for land, wildlife and cultural resources and to provide the protections needed to maintain quality conservation lands.
6. **Cultural Values** - Creating unique outdoor experiences requires working with communities to develop place-based design that captures cultural relevancy, honoring the identity of each unique region of Santa Fe County and developing connections that honor cultural traditions.
7. **Science-Based Management** - Management should be grounded in the best available physical, biological and social science. This science must inform the management of OSTP properties to ensure the protection and the sustainability and resiliency of resources while maintaining and enhancing the quality of outdoor experiences.
8. **Stable Funding** - Stable, long-term, and diverse funding sources are essential to protect the environment and support outdoor recreation.



COLTPAC members visit Thornton Ranch Open Space

Issues, Objectives and Actions:

From the Planning Framework and Directives, the following issues, Objectives, and Actions have been identified and organized by OSTP section to guide staff in implementing the tasks.

Planning and Program Development

Issue 1: Internal coordination and communication within Santa Fe County departments is challenging and limits program effectiveness.

Objective 1: Enhance interdepartmental coordination and communication to ensure effective operations through the following actions:

Action 1.1: Develop a communications protocol

Action 1.2: Develop and update annually an OSTP work plan

Action 1.3: Build an e-file database for each property in a centralized location for access by all OSTP staff

Action 1.4: Define chain of command and decision making process

Action 1.5: Refine COLTPAC role

Action 1.6: Develop a property classification system that identifies resource protection objectives and development limitations

Issue 2: Need County staffing and expertise regarding natural resource management, trail building, historic and cultural resource management, interpretive and educational programming, as well as grounds and landscape maintenance.

Objective 2: Enhance staff capacity, expertise and capability in order to better protect and manage open space program resources through the following actions:

Action 2.1: Determine appropriate levels of maintenance for all OSTP properties

Action 2.2: Determine needed expertise for open space, trail and park/landscape maintenance and identify applicable trainings

Action 2.3: Build staff capacity and capability in order to focus expertise on natural resources, trail building, historic and cultural resource management, interpretive and educational programming, and stewardship

Action 2.4: Train staff in safe herbicide application

Action 2.5: Develop Best Management Practices for OSTP properties

Issue 3: Regular presence by law enforcement and interpretive staff is needed at all properties.

Objective 3: Enhance OSTP presence at properties to proactively address concerns including maintenance, user concerns, enforce laws, and provide education through the following actions:

- Action 3.1: Train staff for interpretive role and provide enforcement capability
- Action 3.2: Develop a volunteer trail patrol program with a protocol for safety and user concerns
- Action 3.3: Explore opportunities for cross-deputization with BLM, tribal, sheriff's posse, Forest Service, etc.
- Action 3.4: Develop dedicated law enforcement ranger with educational/interpretive focus
- Action 3.5: Develop emergency response plan for each property

Issue 4: Conservation and recreation needs are regionally different throughout the County.

Objective 4: Develop a strategic conservation strategy and a facilities analysis that helps guide staff in conservation, recreation, and acquisition planning by completing the following actions:

- Action 4.1: Determine appropriate levels of service to guide where open space, trail, park and recreation facilities are provided in the county according to regional needs
- Action 4.2: Develop a regional trail analysis to identify needed trail connections in the County
- Action 4.3: Develop a park and recreational facility analysis to determine what existing facilities need to be improved
- Action 4.4: Update SLDC Official Map to reflect analysis and new priority trail connections
- Action 4.5: Continue to build trail connections to provide an interconnected network of trails
- Action 4.6: Develop a targeted acquisition strategy focused on connectivity between existing trails and facilities along with long-range conservation goals
- Action 4.7: Develop an open space and conservation plan for each of the four County regions (GMAs)

Issue 5: Internal and external communications regarding goals and expectations are inconsistent.

Objective 5: Create a consistent and straight forward approach to communicate goals and expectations for each property, project, and the overall OSTP program by completing the following actions:

- Action 5.1: Update OSTP work plan annually to clearly communicate with the public yearly focus of projects and OSTP activities
- Action 5.2: Align annual budgeting process to implement OSTP work plan
- Action 5.3: Develop useful and realistic metrics to show success of OSTP goals and projects and that aligns the program with other leaders in the nation
- Action 5.4: Publish an annual report to clearly articulate successes and complete projects to the public

Resource Management

Issue 6: Shifting climate patterns will have long term effects on managing habitats and ecosystems.

Objective 6: Develop long-range management planning which addresses future impacts of climate change and demonstrates adaptability by completing the following actions:

- Action 6.1: Demonstrate innovative, simple, effective strategies for land management on large and small scales.
- Action 6.2: Research carbon sequestration projects and opportunities for land restoration
- Action 6.3: Conserve and increase diversity of native flora and fauna to help with erosion control
- Action 6.4: Incorporate best management practices of stormwater retention and infiltration of precipitation into open space project planning and implementation.
- Action 6.5: Develop and implement forest prescriptions to improve open space fire resiliency

Issue 7: Natural Resource management is an ongoing activity that requires flexibility and regular continuous monitoring and maintenance.

Objective 7: Develop natural resource management planning which addresses the ongoing needs to achieve desired environmental conditions and demonstrates adaptability by completing the following actions:

- Action 7.1: Develop and implement a regular monitoring protocol
- Action 7.2: Conduct baseline surveys on all OSTP properties
- Action 7.3: Develop an ongoing resource management protocol
- Action 7.4: Develop adaptive management planning
- Action 7.5: Develop and enhance staff capacity for long term adaptive resource management and environmental restoration

Issue 8: Maintaining unique conservation characteristics, cultural resources and habitat diversity on OSTP properties and evaluating appropriate recreation opportunities requires staff time and resources.

Objective 8: Develop appropriate management and access strategies to conserve each property's unique characteristics, cultural resources, and habitat diversity through the following actions:

- Action 8.1: Develop and implement management plans for all OSTP properties that highlights specific resource needs
- Action 8.2: Develop protocols for coordination with Tribal partners
- Action 8.3: Work with internal County groups to adopt and consistently apply OSTP BMPs

Educational Programming and Stewardship

Issue 9: The public is not engaged in stewardship opportunities on OSTP properties.

Objective 9: Enhance stewardship opportunities for the public, including youth programs and that build on volunteer opportunities at OSTP properties through the following actions:

Action 9.1: Actively tailor outreach to diverse groups and demographics within the community

Action 9.2: Incorporate Master Naturalist Volunteers into stewardship work

Action 9.3: Develop a Citizen Science Program

Action 9.4: Develop a volunteer training program

Action 9.5: Develop a volunteer work plan

Action 9.6: Work with youth groups as part of stewardship outreach

Issue 10: OSTP program has not been able to adequately provide education and interpretation of important resources within properties

Objective 10: Enhance education and interpretation for the public at OSTP properties through the following actions:

Action 10.1: Develop education programs and interpretive material that highlight conservation goals for OSTP properties

Action 10.2: Establish consistent social media presence to highlight property resources and qualities

Action 10.3: Develop consistent messaging for OSTP program

Action 10.4: Create interpretive and education plans County-wide, for geographic areas, or for specific properties

Action 10.5: Work with schools to provide student opportunities

Project Development and Implementation

Issue 11: Coordination between public land management agencies and other conservation organizations in the region is inconsistent and limits integrated project development/ implementation.

Objective 11: Ensure that multi-jurisdictional coordination between land management agencies and other conservation organizations furthers conservation, recreation, access and educational goals through the following actions:

Action 11.1: Participate in regional conservation and recreation planning initiatives and activities

Action 11.2: Adopt and implement OSTP BMPs with external partners

Issue 12: Once a project need is identified in a plan, there is no established process to evaluate the cost/benefit of the project and to further develop the project concept to define the scope of work and budget for design and construction of the project..

Objective 12: Ensure that a clear process is applied in project development in order to maximize resources and eliminate inefficiencies through the following actions:

Action 12.1: Formalize the project development process in order to implement projects through a streamlined, consistent and community-based process.

Issue 13: Funding for property and trail maintenance, capital development and operations of the Open Space Program is limited.

Objective 13: Develop alternative funding options to diversify and enhance OSTP programming and project development.

Action 13.1: Leverage other sources of funding including grants

Action 13.2: Look into developing a “Friends Group” to assist with fundraising activities

Action 13.3: Develop a funding strategy for new projects and acquisitions





The boreal chorus frog is a species of conservation concern in New Mexico, and has been found at Los Potrerillos Open Space. Gary Nafis/National Park Service.

Chapter 3: Work Plan

This chapter includes priority actions for years 1-5, as well as program project actions for OSTP for the next 20 years. This section of the Plan is considered a “living document” and will be updated every year in order to clearly outline and communicate OSTP priority projects and focus areas.

Priorities are specific in year 1 and 2, and broader in years 3-5.

The **Long Range Work Plan** is organized by OSTP section and guides staff in planning resource and capacity needs for each fiscal year.

This information is for planning purposes only and does not obligate budget or capital investments in either time or amount.



A County Intern entering GPS data at Talaya Hill Open Space.

Priorities

In the next five years, the priority will be streamlining operations in order for OSTP to excel in conservation leadership and to provide the best outdoor experiences to Santa Fe County residents. Priorities are organized by OSTP section to streamline which department will take the lead.

Year 1:

Planning and Program Development

- Develop policies relating to Tribal communications and concerns including trail development and inadvertent discoveries of sacred items.
- Determine chain of command and decision maker for OSTP
- Develop an assessment for recreation and park facilities needs in each GMA in the County, and ability to provide related services and infrastructure
- Determine appropriate level of maintenance for OSTP properties and facilities
- Revisit LOS in SLDC
- Develop analysis of long-range regional trail opportunities
- Work with Greater Santa Fe Regional Trail Planning to prioritize coordinated projects

Resource Management

- Develop emergency response plan for each property, which could include a volunteer bike patrol for monitoring safety of users and facilities
- Conduct baseline wildlife surveys on each OSTP property
- Work with internal groups to adopt OSTP BMPs, including Wildland Fire
- Build a database for each property in a centralized location for access by all OSTP staff
- Develop a regular monitoring protocol
- Continue to implement existing management plans
- Complete Ortiz Mountains OS Management Plan
- OSTP staff trained in OSTP Best Management Practices
- Determine needed expertise for open space management and grounds keeping, and identify applicable trainings
- Work with Santa Fe County Wildland Program to implement forest thinning on priority properties for ecological and wildlife health
- Work with Santa Fe Botanical Garden (SFBG) to implement Master Naturalist program for volunteer training
- Focus staff expertise on natural resources, trail building, historic and cultural resources, interpretive and educational programming, stewardship
- Work with New Mexico Avian Conservation Partners (NMACP) for avian monitoring and research
- Work with Institute for Applied Ecology to do native seed collection and native plant research on OSTP properties
- Work with Xerces Society in the Bring Back the Pollinators campaign
- Develop and implement an Invasive Species Management protocol
- Perform erosion control actions

Educational Programming and Stewardship

- OSTP 20 year anniversary celebration
- Stewardship events including habitat restoration projects along the SF River Streamline communications
- Develop an annual report that clearly communicates accomplishments, yearly focus projects and OSTP work plan
- Develop branding, messaging and education material relating to OSTP program generally
- Develop volunteer training program

Project Development and Implementation

- SF Rail Trail Segment 5
- SF Rail Trail 285 Trailhead
- Arroyo Hondo Segment 4
- Santa Fe River Trail segment 2 design and acquisition
- Romero Park Phase 2
- Pojoaque Valley Recreation Complex Phase 3
- Bennie J. Chavez Community Center Park



Thornton Ranch Open Space

Year 2:

Planning and Program Development

- Work with SFC Sheriff and NM State Parks to establish OSTP Interpretive Rangers program
- Develop a trail analysis specific to trails needs in each GMA region and determine high priority and social trail connections for “low hanging fruit” trail development
- Update SLDC Official Map
- Develop a conservation strategy that specifically guides future acquisitions and areas of conservation need

Resource Management

- Develop a Citizen Science Program and implement numerous citizen science efforts including FrogWatch USA, North American Butterfly Association Butterfly Count, Monarch Larvae Monitoring Project, Bumble Bee Watch, etc
- Conduct surveys on properties for bats, frogs, nocturnal birds, Bendire’s Thrasher, Pinyon Jay nesting colonies, horned lizard, rare plants and additional baseline surveys
- Continue to implement existing management plans
- Implement monitoring and research program with NMACP
- OSTP staff trained in sustainable trail design and construction
- Install border fencing on OSTP properties as needed

Educational Programming and Stewardship

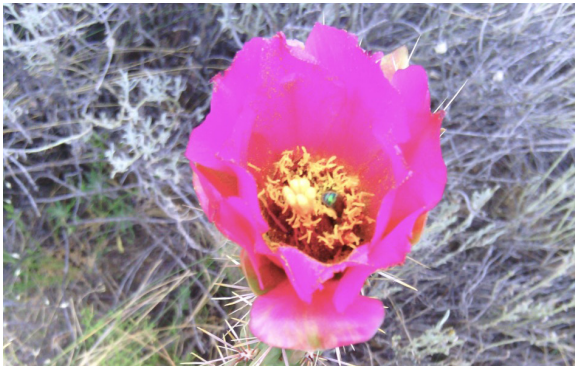
- Involving youth by developing school outreach programs
- Develop branding, messaging and education material relating to specific properties and programs
- Branding and messaging
- Develop a social media presence
- Revise annual work plan
- Identify schools or teachers to involve in outdoor education programs

Project Development and Implementation

- Mt. Chalchihuitl Acquisition and Remediation
- Thornton Ranch Open Space
- Arroyo Hondo Trail Segment 3



Claret cup cactus at Arroyo Hondo Open Space



Cholla species flower at Old Pecos Trail Open Space

Years 3-5:

The categories for priorities in years 3-5 are broadly on providing educational programming and events on OSTP properties; branding and messaging OSTP initiatives; developing partnerships with local groups; resource management; policy development and analysis for OSTP needs county-wide; and capacity building and expanding skillsets among OSTP staff and volunteers. Some known activities for each category have been identified.

This section of the Plan is considered a “living document” and will be updated every year in order to clearly outline and communicate OSTP goals. Each category will be refined annually as this section is updated.

Planning and Program Development

- Develop interpretive and education plans for each property
- Secure access to trails already in use
- Continue interconnected trail projects
- Develop strategy to continue open space acquisition funding options

Resource Management

- Develop management plans for each property

Educational Programming and Stewardship

- Explore a “Friends of Open Space” program to assist with fundraising

Project Development and Implementation

- Rail Trail Segment 6 and Segment 7
- Arroyo Hondo Trail Segments 2, 5 and 1

New projects not included on this list may arise. In order to not limit opportunities, new projects will be evaluated on the capacity of volunteers, alignment with resource management goals, and securing access to existing social trails.



Milkweed species, including this broadleaf milkweed, are essential for monarch butterfly larvae.



Round-tailed horned lizard, at Thornton Ranch Open Space.

Funding

Capital funding for OSTP is limited and must be considered in balance with multiple needs and priorities throughout the County. This plan aims to identify and leverage alternative funding sources, including grants, to assist the County in completing various OSTP capital improvements. Additionally, staff will work to identify new funding options to augment existing sources in order to complete projects. The table on the following pages identifies potential funding sources and timelines for long-range capital planning. This table is not meant as a budgeting or fund allocation tool, but rather as a planning mechanism.

Along with identifying capital funds, staff will continue to work with local partners to leverage other opportunities, and develop projects that include volunteer participation to accomplish project objectives. Finally, staff has identified the option of creating a non-profit entity which could assist the County with long-term fundraising and stewardship for OSTP.

Funding Cycle

Various funding cycles influence the timelines for implementation of OSTP capital projects. Typically, the County asks voters to approve General Obligation Bond funds on a four year cycle. The County's various Gross Receipt Tax revenues are collected annually and support County-wide capital needs. Grant monies may be available annually or as the funding agencies determine. Taking these timelines into account, the long range work plan and priority project tables on the following pages outline potential options for how projects can be programmed through the next 20 years. The priority projects table (on page 69) identifies potential leveraging opportunities for projects, especially trail construction. It is essential to identify and secure additional non-County funds in order to complete and accelerate capital project completion. By securing non-County funds, the County is able to build upon its investments in OSTP assets while implementing projects in a timely manner.



Romero Park



Sheep herder ruins at Thornton Ranch Open Space

Long Range Work Plan

The following tables (on pages 66, 67, and 68) outline planning and projects needs projected out for 20 years in accordance with budget and other funding cycles. This long range work plan guides OSTP staff in each department in planning resource and capacity needs for each fiscal year. This information is for planning purposes only and does not obligate staff time or operational or capital budget.

The 4 categories used to organize the long range work plan correspond to how OSTP is currently organized. Each category represents a section of OSTP and their associated budget category. This table will help organize potential projects along with which OSTP section will implement them, and when they are completed.

Planning and Program Development tasks will be conducted through the Planning Division.

Resource Management is implemented through the maintenance and operations budget in coordination with Planning.

Educational programming, outreach and stewardship projects are facilitated through Community Services and the Volunteer Coordinator in very close coordination with Planning.

Project Development and Implementation tasks are completed through the Projects Division in coordination with Planning.



New Mexico Central Rail alignment, a conceptual regional trail alignment



Mt. Chalchihuitl in the foreground, Grand Central mountain in the background

Long Range Work Plan-Planning and Program Development

Project Type	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029 to 2036
Planning and Program Development												
Best Management Practices												
Communications (work flow, data and file management etc.)												
LOS for active recreational parks												
Acceptable Level of Maintenance												
Land Access Protocols for Tribal Partners												
Ortiz Mountains Open Space Management Plan												
NM Central Trail Conceptual Design												
Madrid Open Space Preliminary Engineering												
FS Comprehensive Recreation Plan for the Greater Santa Fe Area												
Talaya Hill Open Space Management Plan												
Trail Acceptance Policy												
Emergency Response Protocol												
Estancia Basin/South County Trail Planning												
Filming and Special Use Policy and Protocols												
Stats/Performance Measures												
Mapping of trail easement and open space dedications												
Rabbit Rd. Sidepath from Richards Ave. to Santa Fe Rail Trail												
El Rancho Open Space Management Plan												
Little Tesuque Creek Open Space Management Plan												
Old Pecos Trail Open Space Management Plan												
Rio en Medio Open Space Management Plan												
Arroyo de la Piedra Open Space Management Plan												
Los Caminitos Wilderness Management Plan												
Law enforcement												
Trail Patrol												
Trail analysis for easement acquisition												
User request protocol and CIP/ICIP coordination												
Update SLDC official map												
Integrate Open Space and Trails components of Community Plans												
El Penasco Blanco Open Space Management Plan												
Develop Conservation Strategy												
Mt Chalchihuitl Management Plan												
Develop Interpretive Plans												
Rio Grande/Chile Line/Jacona Trail												
Arroyo Hondo Open Space Management Plan update												
Edgewood Open Space Management Plan												
ATSF Trail												
Tres Arroyos del Poniete												
Santa Fe River Trail Connections												
Santa Fe River Segment 7: Paseo Real to La Cienega												
State Trust Lands trade												
Santa Fe River Trail Management Plan												
Arroyo Hondo Trail Management Plan												

The projects and timelines identified may be subject to change as conditions evolve and opportunities arise

 Current project/ funded contract
 Future project

Project Type	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029 to 2036
Resource Management												
Resource Monitoring and Baseline protocol												
Los Potreros Open Space Management Plan Implementation												
La Cieneguilla Open Space Management Plan Implementation												
San Pedro Open Space Management Plan Implementation												
Thornton Ranch Open Space Management Plan Implementation												
Madrid Open Space Management Plan Implementation												
Ortiz Mountains Open Space Management Plan Implementation												
Forest Ecological Health treatment												
Lamy Open Space Management Plan Implementation												
Santa Fe Rail Trail Management Plan Implementation												
Little Tesuque Creek Open Space Management Plan Implementation												
El Rancho Open Space Management Plan Implementation												
Old Pecos Trail Open Space Management Plan Implementation												
Rio en Medio Open Space Management Plan Implementation												
Talaya Hill Open Space Management Plan Implementation												
Los Caminitos Wilderness Management Plan Implementation												
Arroyo de la Piedra Open Space Management Plan Implementation												
Penasco Blanco Open Space Management Plan Implementation												
Mt Chal Management Plan Implementation												
Arroyo Hondo Open Space Management Plan Implementation												
Edgewood Open Space Management Plan Implementation												
Santa Fe River Trail Management Plan Implementation												
Arroyo Hondo Trail Management Plan Implementation												
Cerrillos Hills State Park Management Plan Implementation												

 Current project/ funded contract
 Future project

Educational Programming, Outreach and Stewardship												
Master Naturalist Program												
Employee Training and Development												
Educational and Event Programming												
Annual Report												
Develop Volunteer Capability through training programs												
Update Webpage												
Citizen Science Program												
Stewardship Program												
Messaging and Outreach												
Maps for the public												
Develop Social Media Presence												
Friends Group												

 Current project/ funded contract
 Future project

The projects and timelines identified may be subject to change as conditions evolve and opportunities arise

Long Range Work Plan-Planning and Program Development

Project Type		2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029-2036
Project Development and Implementation													
Santa Fe Rail Trail Segment 5 - Construction	D	\$455,363											
Santa Fe Rail Trail Trailhead Construction	D	\$120,000											
Santa Fe River Segment 1 - Construction	D	\$4,461,900											
Santa Fe River Segment 2 - Design/Acquisition	D	\$2,500,000											
Arroyo Hondo Trail Segment 4 - Construction	D	\$1,450,000											
Romero Park Phase 2 - Design/Construction	D	\$2,600,000											
Pojoaque Valley Recreation Complex Phase 3	D	\$1,200,000											
Mt Chalchihuitl Acquisition/Remediation	D	\$1,044,487											
Bennie J. Chavez Senior Center Park	D	\$259,000											
Thornton Ranch Open Space - Design/Construction	D		\$2,600,000										
Santa Fe Rail Trail Segment 6 - Acquisition	D		\$130,000										
Santa Fe Rail Trail Segment 6/285 Trailhead - Construction	D				\$678,195								
Santa Fe Rail Trail Segment 7 -Design	I						\$110,000						
Santa Fe Rail Trail Segment 7 - Acquisition	I								\$350,000				
Santa Fe Rail Trail Segment 7 - Construction	I										\$1,263,913		
Santa Fe River Segment 2 - Construction	C		\$6,563,070										
Santa Fe River Segment 4 - Design/Acquisition	C						\$4,232,486						
Santa Fe River Segment 4 - Construction	C												
Santa Fe River Segment 6 - Design/Acquisition	C												
Santa Fe River Segment 6 - Construction	C												
Santa Fe River Segment 7 - Design/Acquisition	I												
Santa Fe River Segment 7 - Construction	I												
Arroyo Hondo Trail Segment 3 - Construction	D			\$2,014,224									
Arroyo Hondo Trail Segment 2 - Construction	D				\$1,380,321								
Arroyo Hondo Trail Segment 1 - Construction	D					\$1,379,805							
Arroyo Hondo Trail Segment 5 - Construction	D						\$1,400,000						
Arroyo Hondo Trail Segment 6 - Construction	D									\$102,036			
Romero Park Phase 3 - Design/Construction	C							\$3,012,328					
Romero Park Phase 4 - Design/Construction	C												\$1,191,543
Romero Park Phase 5 - Design/Construction	C												\$1,566,410
Romero Park Tennis Courts - Design/Construction	C												
Romero Park Equestrian Arena - Design/Construction	C												
Mt Chalchihuitl Master Plan	C						\$803,114						
Mt Chalchihuitl Open Space - Design/Construction	P									\$615,250			
Madrid Open Space - Design/Construction	C												\$7,037,381
Rabbit Rd Sidepath	I												\$2,401,000
NM Central Trail - Acquisition/Design	C												\$1,745,900
NM Central Trail - Construction	P												\$10,459,250
ATSF Trail -Acquisition/Design	I												\$1,152,481
ATSF Trail - Construction	I												\$1,605,000
ATSF Trail Lamy Trailhead	I												\$375,156
Lamy Depot Visitor Center	I												\$2,770,938
Chili Line	I												
Chimayo Community Center Park	I												\$1,200,500
Leo Gurule Park	I												\$1,500,625
Rio en Medio Community Center Park	I											\$600,250	
Santa Fe Rail Trail Arroyo Crossings	I												
South Meadows Open Space	C												
Edgewood Open Space - Arena Cover	C												\$2,448,122
Edgewood Open Space - Equestrian Rest Stop	C												\$852,366

The projects and timelines identified may be subject to change as conditions evolve and opportunities arise

Projects Total \$60,941,664
Funded Total \$16,690,750

Priority Projects	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029-2036	Project Total	SFC Investment
Thornton Ranch Open Space													\$2,600,000	\$2,600,000
		\$2.6 M												\$2,600,000
Santa Fe River Trail													\$28,578,401	\$35,540,301
Seg. 1 - Construction	\$4.5 M													\$4,461,900
Seg. 2 - Design/Acquisition	\$2.5 M													\$2,500,000
Seg. 2 - Construction			\$6.6 M											\$6,563,070
Seg. 4 - Design/Acquisition							\$4.2 M							\$4,232,486
Seg. 4 - Construction											\$12 M			\$11,769,032
Seg. 6 - Design/Acquisition/Construction												\$5.5 M		\$5,548,813
Seg. 7 - Design/Acquisition/Construction												\$465 K		\$465,000
Arroyo Hondo Trail													\$6,276,386	\$941,458
Seg. 4 - Construction	\$1.5 M													\$217,500
Seg. 3 - Construction			\$2.0 M											\$302,134
Seg. 2 - Construction				\$1.4 M										\$207,048
Seg. 1 - Construction					\$1.4 M									\$206,971
Seg. 5 - Construction						\$1.4 M								\$210,000
Seg. 6 - Construction											\$102 K			\$15,305
Rail Trail													\$2,532,108	\$1,069,621
Seg. 5- Construction	\$455 K													\$68,304
9 Mile Trailhead Construction	\$120 K													\$120,000
Seg. 6 - Acquisition		\$130 K												\$130,000
Seg. 6 - Construction				\$678 K										\$101,729
Seg. 7 -Design/ Acquisition						\$460 K								\$460,000
Seg. 7 - Construction										\$1.3 M				\$189,587
Mt. Chalchihuitl													\$2,462,851	\$2,462,851
Acquisition and Remediation	\$1.0 M													\$1,044,487
Master Plan							\$803 K							\$803,114
Design/Construction								\$615 K						\$615,250
Madrid Open Space													\$60,000	\$60,000
Stormwater Drainage Study	\$60 K													\$60,000
Construction			TBD											***
Romero Park													\$4,056,815	\$4,056,815
Phase 2 Design/ Construction	\$1.0 M													\$1,044,487
Phase 3 Design/ Construction							\$3.0 M							\$3,012,328
Pojoaque Valley Recreation Complex													\$1,200,000	\$1,200,000
Phase 3 - Design/Construction	\$1.2 M													\$1,200,000
Bennie J. Chavez Senior Center Park													\$259,000	\$259,000
Design/Construction	\$259 K													\$259,000

*assume 15% match

*assume 15% match

**remediation costs

***Construction costs unknown at this time. There are opportunities for funding through partner agencies.

	Funded project
	Needed prior to grant
	Project identified for potential grant funding (match amount anticipated 15%)
	Project identified for potential bond funding

D = Fully Designed/Ready for Construction

C= Conceptual Plan/Needs Final Design/Engineering

P = High Level Plan/Needs Preliminary Design to reach Conceptual Plan

I= Idea Not Yet Planned

The projects and timelines identified may be subject to change as conditions evolve and opportunities arise

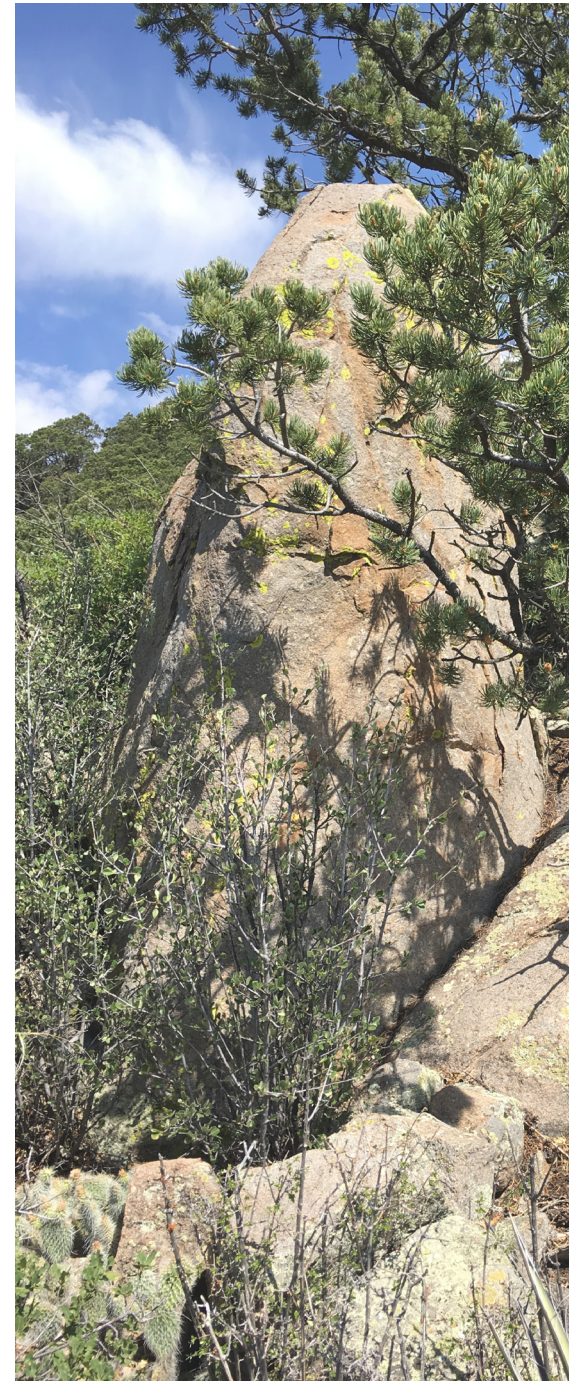


Monarch butterflies can be found on numerous county Open Spaces, including the wetlands at Arroyo Hondo Open Space and along the Santa Fe River at La Cieneguilla Open Space. Jim Hudgins/USFWS

Chapter 4: Plan Elements

The following section outlines actions that address the objectives in the previous section. These items, called plan elements are described in the following pages. Plan Elements are additional guiding documents for OSTP operations. Additional plan elements will amend this plan as they are developed and adopted.

- Best Management Practices
- OSTP Signage Plan
- Open Space Property Management Plans



Ortiz Mountains Open Space

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Best Management Practices

Open Space management requires extensive work covering numerous specialties; from habitat management for optimum biodiversity, to correct placement of trails, OSTP staff must work across multiple disciplines to responsibly manage open space landscapes. Because of the broad scope of necessary work, it is essential to have a document covering best practices across all disciplines. The best practices manual provides detailed information on all essential open space activities including monitoring, adaptive management, decision making, wildlife management, habitat management, regulatory requirements, and trail building.

The following document is the Best Practices Manual for Santa Fe County OSTP.



Open Space maintenance crew at Los Potreros Open Space



El Rancho Open Space

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OSTP Signage Plan

The OSTP Signage Plan provides consistency in the design of OSTP trailheads and signage. This begins to “brand” OSTP in order to provide recognizable and standard wayfinding and identification.

The following document is the OSTP Signage Plan.



El Camino Real, a National Historic Trail



Ortiz Mountains Open Space

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Adopted Management Plans

OSTP recognized the need for property specific management plans to guide management of the unique resources and environmental conditions of each property. The individual OSTP properties are so diverse and community needs are varied that tailored management actions are required. The following list includes the adopted property Management Plans:

Cerrillos Hills Historic Park Management Plan, Resolution 2003-63*

Arroyo Hondo Open Space Management Plan, Resolution 2008-23

Los Potreros Open Space Management Plan, Resolution 2016-110

La Cieneguilla Open Space Management Plan, Resolution 2016-110

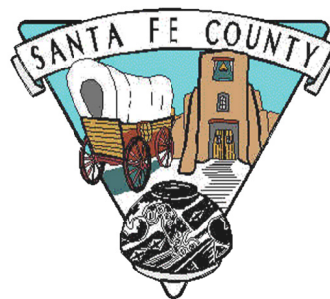
San Pedro Open Space Management Plan, Resolution 2016-110

Madrid Open Space Management Plan, Resolution 2017-40

Lamy Open Space Management Plan, Resolution 2017-40

Thornton Ranch Open Space Management Plan, Resolution 2017-112

* This plan has been updated as part of management through NM State Parks. It has not yet been adopted by Santa Fe County.



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