

Santa Fe County Open Space, Trails and Parks

Annual Work Plan

2024



2024 Work Plan

This work plan outlines the 2024 projects and priorities for the Open Space, Trails and Parks (OSTP) program. These priorities are organized by sections consistent with the 2019 OSTP Strategic Management Plan. Each project has an indicator icon to show progress. Many projects are ongoing, and several are upcoming. Highlighted projects are particular priorities for 2024.









initiated










not yet initiated

Resource Management

Develop and implement open space management plans

-  Adopt Little Tesuque Creek Open Space and Talaya Hill Open Space Management Plans
-  Update Los Potreros Open Space Management Plan and Ortiz Mountains Preserve Forest Management Plan
-  Draft management plans for Rio en Medio Open Space and expanded San Pedro Open Space
-  Continue implementing species-related management plans (i.e., Pinyon Jay, pollinator, invasive species and beaver management plans)
-  Continue preventative maintenance measures on open space, trails and park properties
-  Continue conducting baseline environmental surveys on open space properties

Develop and implement long-range restorative management practices

-  Identify and prioritize restorative land management best practices appropriate to the Southwest region and Santa Fe County open spaces
-  Continue first phase of forest resiliency project at Ortiz Mountains Preserve
-  Continue erosion control projects at Thornton Ranch Open Space
-  Complete plan for floodplain restoration at Rio en Medio Open Space
-  Continue installing boundary and wildlife-friendly fencing at Los Potreros Open Space and additional open space properties as needed
-  Continue partnering with wildlife rehabilitation organizations to facilitate wildlife releases on open space properties
-  Continue using open space properties as demonstration sites for successful resource management with regional partners and agencies

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Educational Programming and Stewardship

- Facilitate the 2024 Northern New Mexico Master Naturalist training course
- Continue scheduling work days and restoration projects with trained Master Naturalist volunteers
- Train new open space property stewards
- Increase stewardship of trails and volunteer participation in trail maintenance
- Continue installing signage at open spaces and trails as needed, including educational, wayfinding, safety, regulatory, and interpretive signage
- Increase communication about OSTP program to public by creating communication materials such as trail maps and brochures
- Continue partnering with SiteWatch, a program of the NM Historic Preservation Division, to monitor culturally significant sites on open space properties

Project Development and Implementation

- Begin construction of Santa Fe River Greenway Trail from Siler Road to San Ysidro Crossing
- Seek funding for property acquisition and design of Santa Fe River Greenway Trail from Romero Park to South Meadows
- Begin construction of Oscar Huber Memorial Ballpark improvements in Madrid
- Seek funding for design of Romero Park Phase III, which includes multi-purpose fields, baseball fields, and additional pickleball courts
- Seek funding for design of Arroyo Hondo Trail from NM 14 to NM 599 Rail Runner train station (Segment 1)
- Begin construction of Arroyo Hondo Trail from Turquoise Trail Subdivision to Velocity Way (Segments 2 and 3)
- Construct Nine Mile and Avenida Eldorado Trailheads
- Construct Avenida de Compadres Trail improvements
- Begin design of Avenida Azul Trail
- Finalize design and begin construction of Rail Trail from Spur Ranch Road to US 285 (Segment 6)

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- Seek funding for preliminary engineering and design of Rail Trail from US 285 to County Road 33 (Segment 7)
- Construct new Spur Trail trailhead as part of NE/SE Connector project
- Plan and design porous road at Los Potreros Open Space
- Construct trail re-route at Little Tesuque Creek Open Space
- Coordinate Environmental Assessment of Thornton Ranch Open Space with BLM
- Complete acquisition of two new open space properties, San Pedro Open Space expansion near Golden and 10 Little Hills in Cerrillos
- Begin planning for study of safe trailhead options at Little Tesuque Creek Open Space
- Begin master planning for development of trails in San Pedro Open Space

Planning and Program Development

- Conserve open space properties through the transfer of development rights program
- Develop policies for tribal co-stewardship of Thornton Ranch Open Space
- Implement Open Space Ranger program
- Modernize OSTP resolutions and ordinances to reflect the current mission of the program
- Study options for funding of open space acquisitions with the County Open Lands, Trails and Parks Advisory Committee (COLTPAC)
- Update the Open Space and Trails Official Map in the Sustainable Land Development Code and Sustainable Growth Management Plan to update existing trails and include new priority trail connections
- Facilitate OSTP staff training in sustainable trail design, construction and maintenance
- Support the Rio Grande Trail planning initiative with the NM Outdoor Recreation Division
- Explore ways to increase trail connectivity, particularly to connect rural communities