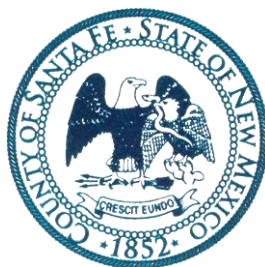


Daniel “Danny” Mayfield
Commissioner, District 1

Miguel Chavez
Commissioner, District 2

Robert A. Anaya
Commissioner, District 3



Kathleen Holian
Commissioner, District 4

Elizabeth Stefanics
Commissioner District 5

Katherine Miller
County Manager

Santa Fe County Adopt-an-Open Space Program

Are you interested in becoming a Steward for a trail, park or any Open Space in Santa Fe County?

Here is what you should know:

- To participate in the program, Stewards must complete an application and will receive a packet of information about the program.
- Adopt an Open Space Steward duties include: reporting on overall land condition, hazards, wildlife issues and signage issues.
- Stewards are expected to assess adopted land at least 4 times a year and submit a report to the Santa Fe County Volunteer Coordinator after each trip
- All land maintenance should be approved by the Volunteer Coordinator.
- All volunteer maintenance events need to be approved, including cleanups and all volunteers must sign release of liability forms.

Our Objective –To assess, report, and maintain Santa Fe County Open Spaces and Trails and to create awareness within our communities also to provide an example of the impact of community involvement on public lands and to illustrate the importance and need of volunteer efforts across Santa Fe County.

Who can participate? We encourage private businesses, schools, community groups, churches, non-profit organizations and individual residents to participate in the Adopt-an-Open Space Program.

Your commitment:

- Adopting an Open Space requires monitoring the land and keeping it in good shape by picking up litter, removing small branches, and reporting larger maintenance needs to the Volunteer Coordinator.
- Stewards are expected to hike adopted land at least 4 times a year (one time quarterly) and submit a report after each trip.

- Read and sign Liability Release Agreement –This form must be completed, signed and returned to the Volunteer Coordinator by all those who will be working on the trail prior to work done on the Trail. The agreement will release Santa Fe County from liability in case of accidental injury or death.

Santa Fe County's Commitment:

Furnish and install trail steward sign identifying you or your organization and the Open Space adopted.

- Provide maintenance tools, safety orientation and safety tools to you before and after scheduled cleanup activities.
- Provide trained technicians and volunteers to maintain and beautify the land.
- Support you or your organization in any way possible to help keep Santa Fe County Open Spaces beautiful.

Safety: This section outlines some of the general precautions Stewards should take while working along county trails, parks, and all other open spaces. Please remember this is for reference only, and a complete safety orientation is required once you have adopted an open space.

1. When assessing the trail, park or Open Space, take a partner.
2. Don't work in bad weather.
3. Avoid overexertion.
4. Only work during daylight hours.
5. Always wear appropriate clothing-long pants, long sleeve shirts, and good work gloves.
6. Never pick up hazardous substances-dead animals, hypodermic needles, and other dangerous materials
7. Watch out for snakes.

What Santa Fe County Open Spaces are adoptable?

Only County-maintained Open Spaces are adoptable through this program. If you are not sure of the status of an Open Space, trail, or park, call the Volunteer Coordinator at 992-3053. Open Spaces that are already adopted may not be adopted by a second group. At the discretion of the County, an Open Space may be deemed unsafe for adoption and will therefore be "unadoptable."

For more information please contact Carol Branch, Volunteer Coordinator, Santa Fe Community Services Department at (505) 992-3053 adoptopensespace@santafecountynm.gov