



Santa Fe River Greenway Project

The Santa Fe River Greenway project is a joint effort between Santa Fe County and the City of Santa Fe to construct approximately 15 miles of continuous greenway of public parks and trails from downtown Santa Fe to the Wastewater Treatment Plant west of NM 599. When completed the County's portion of the River Greenway will run from the current City limits at Frenchy's Field to the Wastewater Treatment Plant west of NM 599, approximately eight miles.

The Greenway will revive the traditional use of the corridor as a transportation route and focus community members and visitors on the historical role of the Santa Fe River in connecting communities along the Camino Real de Tierra Adentro. Santa Fe County plans to construct a multi-use trail along the River, which will provide both recreational opportunities and an alternative transportation route. As part of the Greenway project, Santa Fe County is also restoring the River using natural materials and native plants to stabilize the channel and enhance the riparian habitat.

Frequently Asked Questions

1) How did this project get started?

The idea of restoring the River to a more natural state and creating a Greenway was initiated by the public and City leadership in the early-1980s after a proposal to channelize the River for flood control was presented to the public. Members of the public and the City Council opposed the plan because the proposed measures were too drastic and insensitive to the natural character and history of the River.

2) What is involved in River reconstruction?

River reconstruction focuses on recreating meanders in the river channel, stabilizing the river bed and banks, removing non-native vegetation and trash and debris, and planting native cottonwood trees, willows, shrubs and grasses.

3) Won't the new plantings along the river need water?

The riparian plant community is not dependent on continuous flows in the river to survive. However, more water in the river will increase their ability to thrive.

4) What will the trail be like?

A typical trail section is 10-feet wide with a hard surface made of either asphalt or an alternative paving material.

5) What work has been done so far?

Since the 1980s local stakeholders, City and County leadership, partner agencies and organizations have made tremendous progress in restoring the River and moving the region closer to the goal of a continuous Greenway. This work includes:

- o River restoration between Cottonwood Drive and NM 599 completed by the State Land Office in partnership with Santa Fe County, the City, and the NM Environment Department using grant funding from the Environmental Protection Agency.
- o Construction of 0.7 miles of trail and phase one of River reconstruction at San Isidro Park between San Ysidro Crossing and Caja del Oro Road (Lopez Lane). Phase two of River reconstruction is currently under design with construction planned for summer 2012.
- o Construction of one mile of trail at El Camino Real Park on the County's easement on State Land near NM 599. Construction continues on the trail head and parking lot with a grand opening planned for June 2012.

6) Where does the funding come from for this project?

The majority of the funding for the County's portion of the Greenway will come from the County's General Obligation Bonds and Gross Receipts Tax revenues. In 2008, County voters approved a \$3.5 million bond for the Greenway Project. To date, that funding has been used for acquisition, planning and design, and to complete trail segments and River reconstruction at San Ysidro Crossing and El Camino Real Park.

7) When will the Greenway be completed?

The County anticipates completing conceptual plans for the remaining trail segments and River reconstruction by fall 2013. Final design and construction will depend on the success of future bond measures, but the County hopes to complete construction to the Wastewater Treatment Plant by 2019.

8) Where can I find more information?

More information is available on the County website at:

http://www.santafecounty.org/public_works/open_space_and_trails_program

You are welcome to sign up for the project listserv to receive periodic updates, information about trail openings and volunteer opportunities:

<http://groups.google.com/group/santa-fe-river-greenway/subscribe?pli=1>

9) Who is in charge of the Project?

The project is being run by the Santa Fe County Open Space Trails Program, with direction from the Board of County Commissioners and the County Manager. The project manager is Meghan Bayer, mbayer@santafecounty.org.