

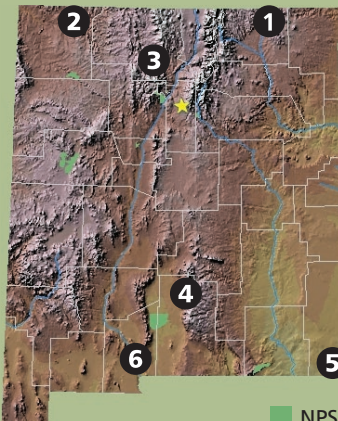


New Mexico News



Rafting on the Animas River. Photo: NPS

PROJECTS AND PARTNERS 2013



■ NPS Unit
★ State Capital

CURRENT PROJECTS

1. Raton Recreation and Nature Trails
GrowRaton! Taskforce
2. Animas River Paddling Trail
City of Aztec
3. Capulin~Canoncito Trails
Jemez Mountains School District
4. Mescalero Apache Trails
Sovereign Nation Service Corps
5. Jal Walking Trail
City of Jal
6. Sierra Vista Trail Project
Groundwork Doña Ana

Find out more about each project starting on page 2.

Recent Successes

Aztec Celebrates National Trails Day

While work goes on planning for the one-mile gateway Aztec Ruins Trail, the Aztec Trails & Open Space Committee (ATOS) shifted gears to highlight the Animas River as a potential National Water Trail during national trails day activities on June 2nd. Aztec has embraced the America's Great Outdoors (AGO) initiative and wants to help local residents connect to their outdoors through the Animas River.

“RTCA has been an outstanding partner...They’ve really helped bring everybody together.”

- Larry Turk, Superintendent,
Aztec Ruins National Monument

With the help of San Juan College Outdoor Leadership, Education, and Recreation Program, ATOS volunteers organized raft trips for the public during Aztec Fiesta Days. Over 100 people took advantage of the raft trips through the City of Aztec. Many participants had never been in a river raft before and everyone enjoyed the brief, yet free raft trip. Raft guides

talked to their riders about river recreation opportunities and the possibilities for improved river access and safety from Aztec to Farmington.

This river event has energized city leaders and other partners along the 15-mile reach of the Animas River to initiate National Water Trail planning. Local economic development and tourism councils are seeing the benefits of focusing attention on the Animas as a regional recreation destination.

Current Projects

1. Raton Recreation and Nature Trails

Project Partner: GrowRaton! Taskforce
NPS Contact: Hugh Osborne
Location: City of Raton
Congressional District: NM - 3

Project Goal

The completion of a non-motorized trail system in the Climax Canyon city park which is adjacent to the City of Raton. The trail system will provide a convenient site for active outdoor recreation and environmental education. The project team will also examine opportunities to connect Raton with Sugarite Canyon State Park with six miles of non-motorized trail.

NPS Role

Provide trail design and alignment assistance for the proposed trails, engaging the community in the planning process, and identifying funding sources to get trails and other facilities on the ground.

2. Animas River Paddling Trail (America's Great Outdoors)

Project Partner: City of Aztec, Aztec Trails & Open Space Inc.
NPS Contact: Attila Bality
Location: City of Aztec
Congressional District: NM - 3

Project Goal

Increase river based recreation along the Animas River from Aztec to Farmington, NM. The partners will pursue a National Water Trail designation by implementing best management practices for river access, maintenance, education and interpretation, and river management.

NPS Role

Identify and recruit additional partners to develop a river recreation plan that includes the best management practices for a National Water Trail designation. RTCA will coordinate partner planning and community activities and events to attract local residents to paddling opportunities.

3. Capulin~Canoncito Trails

Project Partner: Jemez Mountains School District
NPS Contact: Attila Bality
Location: Gallina
Congressional District: NM - 3

Project Goal

Develop four miles of trails that provide safe, healthy hiking opportunities; provide physical connections to Santa Fe National Forest; and create interpretive and forest stewardship opportunities. This project is an expansion of RTCA's Step



Jal resident Gene Armstrong leads a fieldtrip discussion. Photo: NPS

Into Cuba efforts. Gallina partners are interested in replicating successes in Cuba, NM.

NPS Role

Provide technical assistance regarding sustainable trail development and construction for partners and new YCC program participants. We will help establish broader partnerships in the community, develop civil engagement strategies, and work closely with the U.S. Forest Service in trail planning.

4. Mescalero Apache Trails

Project Partner: Sovereign Nation Service Corps
NPS Contact: Attila Bality
Location: Mescalero
Congressional District: NM - 2

Project Goal

New trails development on certain areas of Mescalero Tribal lands for the benefits of visitors and community members; and the establishment of rules and policies to protect Tribal lands. Partners will support active living strategies identified through a CDC Community Transformation Grant and explore possible trail connections to village of Ruidoso and Lincoln National Forest.

NPS Role

Provide training to Service Corps members in backcountry trail construction planning and methods. RTCA will also provide a critical assessment of the existing trails



Raton fogey's John Johnson, Patricia Walsh, and Al Frydryk. Photo: NPS

Current Projects cont.

and provide recommendations for improvement. RTCA will provide guidance to Tribal officials in the development of a Trails Master Plan for the Inn of the Mountain Gods area.

5. Jal Walking Trail

Project Partner: City of Jal
NPS Contact: Attila Bality
Location: City of Jal
Congressional District: NM - 2

Project Goal

Development of a two-mile walking path connecting the municipal golf course to Jal Lake park. The community aims to restore a natural drainage channel to its proper condition before trail development occurs.

NPS Role

RTCA will provide assistance for trail construction for the two-mile long trail. RTCA continues to facilitate discussions among the project steering committee as they explore drainage channel clean-up options and identify additional strategies to involve youth and the health community.

6. Sierra Vista Trail Project

Project Partner: Groundwork Doña Ana
NPS Contact: Cate Bradley
Location: City of Las Cruces
Congressional District: NM - 2

Project Goal

Establish a working partnership with BLM and train Green Team youth members in trail design and layout, interpretive planning, and design. The Green Team will also help raise community awareness of Groundwork Doña Ana and the BLM urban trails system through outreach events.

NPS Role

Provided assistance in partnership building with BLM, content review for interpretive/education materials development, and organizational development support of the GWDA staff and Board of Directors.



Sign-in and information table for Sierra Vista Trail project. Photo: NPS

“The RTCA partnership has been crucial to the success of GWDA. From organizational development support to building partnerships with key stakeholders, to technical information for trail projects, we have benefited greatly through our relationship with RTCA.”

- Denice Hardy, GWDA Executive Director

New Mexico Outdoors Coalition

An outcome of the America’s Great Outdoors Listening Sessions, a new coalition has formed to promote outdoor recreation throughout the State of New Mexico. The New Mexico Outdoors Coalition is a network of public, private, and non-profit organizations and interested individuals who are committed to conservation and outdoor recreation. The Coalition is an open and inclusive forum for communication and collaboration with a goal of creating more opportunities to connect people to nature and respect the environment. Participation is open to everyone. Visit new-mexico-outdoors-coalition+subscribe@googlegroups.com to get more information. This listserve was created to facilitate information about projects and initiatives that connect New Mexicans to the outdoors. Topics include conservation, recreation, education, health and wellness, tourism, youth engagement, and job creation.



We're Here For You.

Could your project benefit from RTCA Staff Assistance? Contact us to find out.



Attila Bality
505.346.2871 x213
attila_bality_nps.gov



Cate Bradley
520.791.6472
cate_bradley_nps.gov



Hugh Osborne
303.969.2781
hugh_osborne_nps.gov

2012 Nationwide Partnership Success

2,154 Miles of Trail Developed

1,074 Miles of River Conserved

70,385 Acres of Open Space and Parkland Protected

94% Percentage of Community Partners Satisfied

Find more information online at www.nps.gov/rtca



EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA™

Recent Successes cont.

Raton Sponsors the First Annual Fogey Fun Run on Climax Canyon Trails

An impressive number of fogeys, young and old, turned out for the inaugural event of the new trails in Climax Canyon Park. The park, located in Raton, offers a wilderness experience right on the edge of town. The Fogey Fun Run introduced Raton residents to the new trails within the rugged park. For some participants, this was the first time they had been on these trails.

Al Frydryk and John Johnson, two exceptional volunteer trail-builders have added another mile and a half of trail to that which was constructed by the Rocky Mountain Youth Corps last year. These two hearty souls have used their own equipment, time, and effort to build a great stacked-loop trail system for folks to enjoy and they have plans to build even more!

The City has purchased and installed signs to direct residents and visitors to the park from the main thoroughfare.

Sierra Vista Trail Project Grant Creek Trail Moves Forward

The Sierra Vista Trail (SVT) is a 29-mile long non-motorized trail that extends from west of the Organ Mountains in Las Cruces, NM to the Franklin Mountain State Park Trail System in El Paso, Texas. It is a hiking, biking, and equestrian trail project that is part of an overall trails system administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The SVT project focused on a 9-mile section of the trail, located east of Las Cruces, NM.

On the Sierra Vista Trail project, 12 Groundwork Doña Ana Green Team members restored and maintained existing trails and built new trails that provide outdoor recreation opportunity and protect the mountain system's natural resources. A sensitive barrel cactus habitat area was protected by diverting the trail and preventing further erosion on the trail. Interpretive signage and information about the trail, recreation etiquette, and environmental education were installed at key segments of the trail. Green Team members learned about erosion issues, endangered species protection, invasive plants and trail maintenance and building through this project and their community outreach events.



GWDA Green Team members on the Sierra Vista Trail. Photo: NPS