

SANTA FE CONSERVATION TRUST
REPORTING FOR CITY TRAIL VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR
June 2017

TASKS TO BE COMPLETED	NOTES	Staff
1) <u>NEEDS ASSESSMENT</u>	Assess erosion control and signage needs in Dale Ball Trails and Dorothy Stewart Trail. Assist in City Parks contractor assessment of urban trails and parks via bike tour.	Rogers
2) <u>RESEARCH & FUNDING</u>	Coordinate with Partners in Education to support buses for Fall 2017 field trips (approx. \$1890 value); Take a Kid Hiking Day event support from La Montañita Co-op and Smith's and via Elaine Pinkerton Coleman and from Lineberry Foundation for passport stickers and hydration pack prizes.	Rogers, Noss
3) <u>STEWARD RECRUITMENT</u>	Attend Trails Alliance of Santa Fe meeting; confer with volunteers on proposed Trail Work days and locations; schedule and publicize trail work days via e-mail and on SFCT and TAOSF web sites. Significant participation from Santa Fe County Horse Coalition at La Tierra Trails. Discuss potential Boy Scout project to involve troop in city trail work. Outreach to Sun Mountain Trail neighbors for future work day.	Rogers
4) <u>TRAIL MAINTENANCE</u>	Coordinate and co-lead trail work days in La Tierra Trails (Frijoles Trailhead / equestrian parking area, with TAOSF) on June 13 and in Dale Ball Trails - South and Dorothy Stewart Trail on June 23 and 29, with coordination and assistance from Santa Fe County staff and volunteers.	Rogers
5) <u>TRAINING & EDUCATION</u>	Participate in fireshed awareness ride/run organized by Forest Guild, 6/27. Speak with Ukrainian delegation on conservation work and bicycle-pedestrian planning at request of Council on Intl Relations, June 9.	Rogers
6) <u>COMMUNITY EVENTS / PROMOTION</u>	Take a Kid Hiking Day on June 17 at Dale Ball Trails, Sierra del Norte Trailhead: Prepare, publicize, coordinate, set up/provide info., and lead hike. Participate in County hike at Arroyo Hondo Open Space, June 10. Bike to Work Wrap-Up meeting June 8.	Rogers, Noss
7) <u>CITY CONTACTS</u>	Coordinate with Councilor Renee Villarreal and Take a Kid Hiking Day partners on city resolution and Councilor's participation in event on June 17. Discuss road priorities and developments around Alta Vista St. and W. Alameda with BTAC On-Road subcommittee, create and share w BTAC graphic re W Alameda bike lanes. Present to / attend BTAC, June 21. Confer with R Thompson of City Parks on planning toward completing Dale Ball Connector Trail in July. Tour urban trails and parks by bicycle with Sites SW consultant for City Parks, Recreation, Trails and Open Space Plan, June 28.	Rogers

SANTA FE CONSERVATION TRUST
REPORTING FOR CITY TRAIL VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR
June 2017

8) <u>PLANNING / COORDINATION</u>	Coordinate with TPL regarding GIS assistance for GUSTO; attend County meeting on Arroyo Hondo Trail w/ tie in to I-25 Interchange trail, June 8. Rio Grande Trail alignments meeting with consultants, June 14. Communicate with Upper Canyon Road Neighborhood Association about possible trail connectivity to Cerro Gordo Park. Communicate with Santa Fe Estates re Arbolitos Trail. Tour and gps-track Tessera Trails north of NM599 underpass with Homewise, by foot, June 30. Use Bike Master Plan tables and other sources to track and calculate progress since 2012, and update overall system mileage, for LAB/BFC application and for general planning needs toward BMP revision.	Rogers, Noss
9) <u>REPORTS</u>	Prepare May and June reports for BTAC and City; update GUSTO demonstration project maps and materials on web; enter volunteer hours for Trail Work Days in spreadsheet and on TAOSF web site; create web material summarizing work days and promotional events in May and June.	Rogers

Also see:

[Work at Frijoles Trailhead, La Tierra Trails, June 13](#)

[Take a Kid Hiking Day, June 17](#)

[Work Days in Dale Ball South and Dorothy Stewart Trail, June 23 & 29](#)

[City of Santa Fe, "A RESOLUTION SPONSORING THE INAUGURAL "TAKE A KID HIKING DAY...ON JUNE 17, 2017."](#)

[Breezes, birds and Bigfoot: Kids explore Santa Fe's trails](#)

By Anne Constable – Santa Fe New Mexican on 6/18/2017

Saving Land. For Everyone. Forever.

[Home](#)[About](#)[Land](#)[Trails](#)[Skies](#)[Support](#)[Events](#)[News & Media](#)[Contact](#)[Subscribe](#)

Work at Frijoles Trailhead, La Tierra Trails

On June 13, 11 volunteers met with the Trail Volunteer Coordinator at Frijoles Trailhead to remove and re-install wooden parking delineators for horse trailers.

The group included a fairly even mix of hikers, mountain bikers, and equestrian users of our trails. The objective accomplished was to recess the wooden delineators, which are about the size of railroad ties, more deeply into the gravel and dirt parking lot so as to reduce the risk of accidental injury to horses and their people.

While we were there we also made some fixes to similar, wooden wheel-stops in a nearby lot for car parking, and we sent out a special envoy to tackle more traditional erosion control on nearby trails.

Special thanks go to Manny Maes of the Trail Alliance of Santa Fe for planning and facilitating this job, and to Sue Murphy of the Santa Fe County Horse Coalition for bringing the need to our attention. Also to Carol Branch of Santa Fe County for lending a hand along with her Summer intern, and for passing out cold beverages at the end of the work day.



Before: Potential tripping hazards and ankle twisters for horses and people



Many hands make light work



Sue Murphy and Julia Belt of the Santa Fe County Horse Coalition



Manny Maes and Mike Mellon of the Trails Alliance of Santa Fe listen to Julia Belt of the Santa Fe County Horse Coalition



Most of the crew stand by the finished job, minus County reinforcements



Finished product: over time, gravel around the wooden delineators is expected to subside about 1/2 inch to an inch.

Saving Land. For Everyone. Forever.



Home

About

Land

Trails

Skies

Support

Events

News & Media

Contact

Subscribe

Signage and Other Trail Work in Dale Ball South, June 2017

On the morning of June 23, the Trails Program Manager met with a seven-member team of County staff and volunteers at Junction 39 in Dale Ball Trails. Under the leadership of Carol Branch, County Volunteer Coordinator, this group was combining a hiking outing with a chance to help out both the City and the County Trails programs.



The County team at Junction 39.



On the way up, Moon and Sun Mountains in the background



Getting closer to Junction 40, with Picacho Peak in the background

Junction 39 is where City volunteers had left a small pile of wooden water bars that we removed from the trail to the north of the junction in [April and May](#). No longer needed as water bars, these can now be re-purposed into “arrow” sign posts to be put up in Talaya Hill Open Space, the County section of Dale Ball Trails, later this Summer.



At Junction 40, below Castle Rock

This morning, with the help of the County team, we brought four posts up to Junction 40 and three more up to Junction 41, where the County staff and volunteers enjoyed the view from Castle Rock. Slowly but surely we are getting things in place for the County's future sign work!

The Trails Program Manager brought a couple more future sign posts over to Junction 37 as well, another useful location for pre-positioning for elsewhere in Talaya Hill Open Space. He then visited Junction 33 at Dorothy Stewart Trail for some other signage touch-up work – with mixed results (photo at right).

The following week, on June 29, City trail volunteers returned to the area and tried various other methods of graffiti removal on signs at Junctions 33 and 38 and elsewhere on the Dorothy Stewart Trail (photos below). The winning combination discovered by Heather Weir was alcohol and a household scuff-eraser.

Meanwhile a crew led by Henry Lanman built a sizable grade reversal to replace a failing wooden water bar halfway up the hill to Junction 38.

We also moved three more future sign posts into position in “County territory” at Junction 37.



Double Arrow Sticker: Successful. Graffiti removal: Not so much.



June 29: Alcohol + Scuff Mark eraser = Success



(1) Building a rock base to a new grade reversal; failing water bar in foreground



(2) Helping clear the drainage channel while building up dirt to pack on top of the rocks

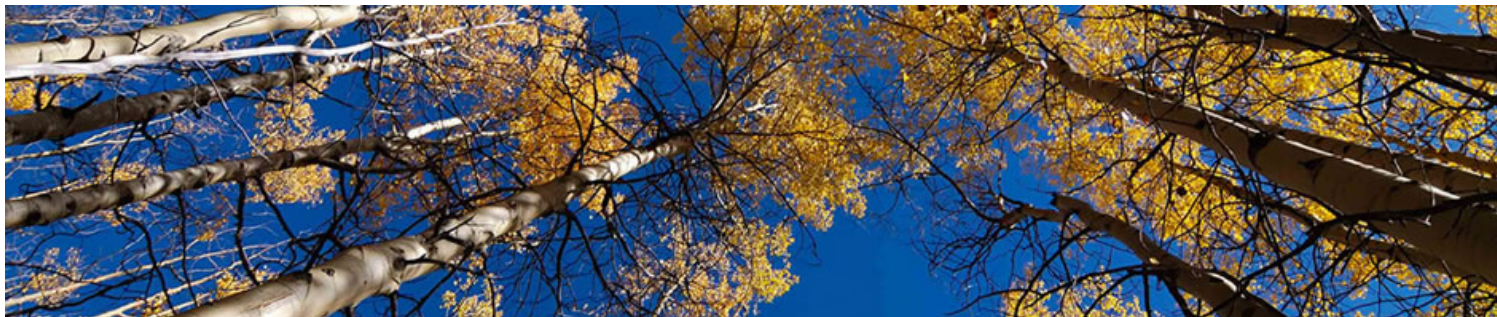


(3) Volunteers show off the finished product: Grade reversal, built to last!

Santa Fe Conservation Trust 

[Home](#) | [Land](#) | [Trails](#) | [Skies](#) | [Support](#) | [About](#) | [Events](#) | [News & Media](#) | [Contact](#) | [Subscribe](#) | [Site Map](#)

Saving Land. For Everyone. Forever.

[Home](#)[About](#)[Land](#)[Trails](#)[Skies](#)[Support](#)[Events](#)[News & Media](#)[Contact](#)[Subscribe](#)

Take a Kid Hiking Day

On Sat., June 17, 2017, SFCT's Trails Program Manager worked with the City of Santa Fe and local hiking enthusiasts to put on "Take a Kid Hiking Day." Thanks go to Elaine Pinkerton, author of "Santa Fe on Foot," and Richard Polese of Ocean Tree Books, who worked with City Councillor Renee Villarreal to get a [resolution passed by Council](#) the preceding Wed. that recognized the day and encouraged families to go hiking wherever they wish.



Arriving at Junction 2, where the loop begins.

A focal point for the day was a community hike in Dale Ball Trails starting at the Sierra del Norte Trailhead, where roughly a dozen kids brought their families for a fun and healthy hike. The outing was kicked off by Councillor Villarreal's sister, Aimee, who brought her son Joaquin, and read the city resolution and expressed thanks for the natural beauty that we were all about to enjoy.

Participants then embarked on the popular hiking loop encompassing junctions 1, 2, and 3, where we were joined by Councillor Villarreal. This hike totals 2.4 miles through the piñon-juniper foothills north of the trailhead; most hikers also took the 1/10-mile excursion from the northernmost point of the loop to check out the

nearby [La Piedra Trail overlook](#).



Enjoying some shade at Sierra del Norte Trailhead on "Take a Kid Hiking Day."



The junction for the La Piedra Trail – “connecting the city to the sky” – is about halfway around the loop.

This [event](#) was an opportunity for the SFCT Trails Program to offer one more chance for kids in the “[Passport to Trails](#)” program to earn their fourth and final sticker and win the prize of a hydration pack, an opportunity that was publicized to all 300 kids that we took for [field trips in May](#), which were based out of Cerro Gordo Trailhead to the

south.

Thanks also go to La Montañita Co-op and Smith’s for providing snacks and water for the event at Sierra del Norte Trailhead, and to the Lineberry Foundation and S.L. Gimbel Foundation for support to SFCT to develop and implement the Passport to Trails program.

We are also grateful to staff of the Santa Fe New Mexican for coming along on the hike and providing a very nice synopsis of the event in the next morning’s Sunday New Mexican, “[Breezes, birds and Bigfoot: Kids explore Santa Fe’s trails.](#)”



Joaquin leads the way



Clockwise and counterclockwise hikers converge at the northwest corner of the 2.4-mile loop.



One tuckered-out hiker at the end of the trail.

Amazing nature: Aimee and Joaquin
watch a Piñon Jay feed its babies in a
nest hidden in the shade within a piñon
tree just off of the trail.

Santa Fe Conservation Trust 

[Home](#) | [Land](#) | [Trails](#) | [Skies](#) | [Support](#) | [About](#) | [Events](#) | [News & Media](#) | [Contact](#) | [Subscribe](#) | [Site Map](#)

SANTA FE NEW MEXICAN

http://www.santafenewmexican.com/news/local_news/breezes-birds-and-bigfoot-kids-explore-santa-fe-s-trails/article_6ca6df1a-51a8-5584-9a17-a105c3f7f817.html

Breezes, birds and Bigfoot: Kids explore Santa Fe's trails

By Anne Constable | For The New Mexican Jun 17, 2017



From left, Gloria Ochoa, left, walks with her grandson, Devin, 1, his mother, Jasmine Ochoa, and an aunt, Janelly Ochoa, 11, along a Dale Ball Trail on Saturday during Take a Kid Hiking Day, a city event aimed at getting kids outdoors. Luis Sánchez Saturno/The New Mexican

Bigfoot apparently roams the piñon- and juniper-covered hills just a few miles from the Santa Fe Plaza. Ten-year-old Diego Rael said he has seen the hairy, human-like creature's bed along one of the Dale Ball Trails off Hyde Park Road.

Diego was at such a trail Saturday morning, the Sierra del Norte, with his parents, his brother Elias, 12, and a friend. They were among a handful of children in Santa Fe who ditched their iPads and computer screens, slapped on sunscreen and showed up for the city's first Take a Kid Hiking Day.

Their dad, Javier Rael, who works for the Santa Fe Fire Department, said hiking "gets them off the couch."

Elias said he enjoys the activity, especially "eating in different places and looking around at the scenery."

"I like the breezes, listening to the birds, eating lunch and looking for Bigfoot," Diego said.

Elaine Pinkerton Coleman, author of *Santa Fe On Foot*, and her publisher, Richard Polese of Ocean Tree Books, proposed the idea of Take a Kid Hiking Day to the City Council, and the governing body approved a resolution last week encouraging adults to help introduce children to the forested lands surrounding Santa Fe. Tim Rogers, trails program manager for the Santa Fe Conservation Trust, signed on to help coordinate the special day's featured group hike.

Isela Burciaga, Elias and Diego's mom, said the family focuses on keeping the kids active and eating healthy foods. That's the message the event's coordinators, all avid hikers, were hoping to send to local families. They emphasized that hiking the public trails can be an antidote to obesity, here and around the country.

Obesity rates among children have been declining in recent years, but according to the state Department of Health and the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, more than 1 in 4 kindergartners in New Mexico were overweight or obese in 2015, compared to 17 percent nationwide. One in 3 third-graders were overweight or obese in 2015.

Getting outside, Pinkerton Coleman said, also is a way to “recalibrate the emotions.”

The health benefits are obvious, Rogers said, but the kids also are exposed to nature and learn to appreciate the value of conservation and “how these lands and trails were saved from development to provide these opportunities.”

“We want them to know these are public trails that belong to everyone and they are free to use them,” he said. “We want them to be in the habit of going hiking and using city open space and trails. ... Deep inside, kids love doing that stuff. A lot of them aren’t encouraged to do it. This gives them a chance.”

Although attendance at Take a Kid Hiking Day was light Saturday, the coordinators are hoping to stage the event every year on the Saturday before Father’s Day.

Some of the family groups who participated in the event hiked a short loop route Saturday. Others chose a longer excursion to an overlook with an interpretive sign, a total of 2.75 miles. Families could go on their own or with a leader from the trust.

Pinkerton Coleman, who hikes regularly with the city’s Over the Arroyo Gang, first published *Santa Fe On Foot* in 1986. The latest edition, which came out last year, has 14 suggested hikes, including some new ones at sites such as the Santa Fe Botanical Garden, Milner Plaza, Frenchy’s Field Park and Sun Mountain.

Rogers regularly takes children from Santa Fe Public Schools into the woods on field trips. In May, for example, he led 14 hikes on the Dale Ball Trails and The Nature Conservancy’s Santa Fe Canyon Preserve for more than 300 fourth- and fifth-graders from Camino Real Academy and Nina Otero Community School.

Since the program began in 2014, some 3,000 kids have hit the trails. Some have summited Atalaya Mountain and hiked the La Tierra Trails, and others have participated in trail workdays.

Some kids on Saturday’s hike said they might ordinarily be watching cartoons on TV on a Saturday morning, but Janelly Ochoa, 11, is no couch potato. She said she would have been riding her bike or playing outside. Instead, she brought her mother and other family members, including 15-month-old nephew Devin, to the Dale Ball Trails. Grinning widely, she said, “I really like seeing how the plants grow and the views.”

Alicia Ayala, a third-grade teacher at El Camino Real Academy, brought along her son, Edward Scott, 9. She said she was interested in finding out about trails in Santa Fe that are appropriate for children.

“I can take this back to my kids. We’re really pushing for healthy habits and good information to pass on to parents,” she said.