

Santa Fe River Greenway

April 1, 2015

1) Background

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 Frenchy's Field to the Wastewater Treatment Plant west of NM 599, approximately eight miles.

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 community. 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.

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

The conceptual plans for all trail segments and River reconstruction was completed in 2014. The plans contain the composite survey identifying all required properties, the new river channel and trail alignment. 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 2021.

The project is being run by the Santa Fe County Projects Division, with direction from the Board of County Commissioners and the County Manager. The County contracted with Tierra Right of Ways to provide acquisition services including title and closing, appraisal and appraisal review, ESA Phase I, Right of Entries, negotiations and condemnation as necessary. The acquisition process follows the guidelines set forth in the Federal Highways Administration Federal Register.

Major issues between the City and County that need resolution are:

- The adoption of an MOA allowing the County to purchase property within City limits. (Signed by the City on December 7, 2015. Scheduled for January 12, 2016 BCC)
- Determining maintenance responsibility for areas within the City limits. (Addressed in current MOA)

- The granting of an easement by the City to the County within the Richards Avenue Right of Way needed to construct the project.

2) Mission statement

To work cooperatively with the City and partners to restore the Santa Fe River to a more natural and healthy River from Two-Mile Reservoir to the Wastewater Treatment Plant and construct a continuous, safe and well connected greenway of trails and parks that promote outdoor recreation, alternative transportation, economic revitalization and a focal point for the community that embodies both our cultural and natural heritage.

3) Assessment of Current Conditions

a) Frenchy's to Siler

Status

- Weston has provided 100% construction drawings.
- Negotiations with property owners are underway.
- 21.743 acres to be acquired at an estimated \$1,181,400 - 100% FUNDED.
- Construction Costs: \$4,045,881 - 100% FUNDED.
- Estimated Schedule: Acquisitions complete 5/31/16, begin construction 9/1/16, duration 6-9 months.

Issues/Challenges

- Very constrained River channel on east end near Camino Carlos Rael with little room for meandering
- Major tributary west of Camino Carlos Rael on north bank
- Trash, debris, evidence of gravel mining, material stockpiles
- Land acquisition needed
- Need to tie into existing City trail and restoration east of Frenchy's Field
- Transition from City trail to County trail – signage, materials, etc.
- Bridge at Siler does not easily allow for a trail underpass as originally planned (?)
- Project is within the City limits except for the County owned parcel under Siler Bridge.

Opportunities

- Narrow channel and engineering constraints may offer opportunity for innovative approaches
- Viewing platform?
- Work with developers to increase access points.
- Safely connect cyclists from Downtown to Siler Rd.

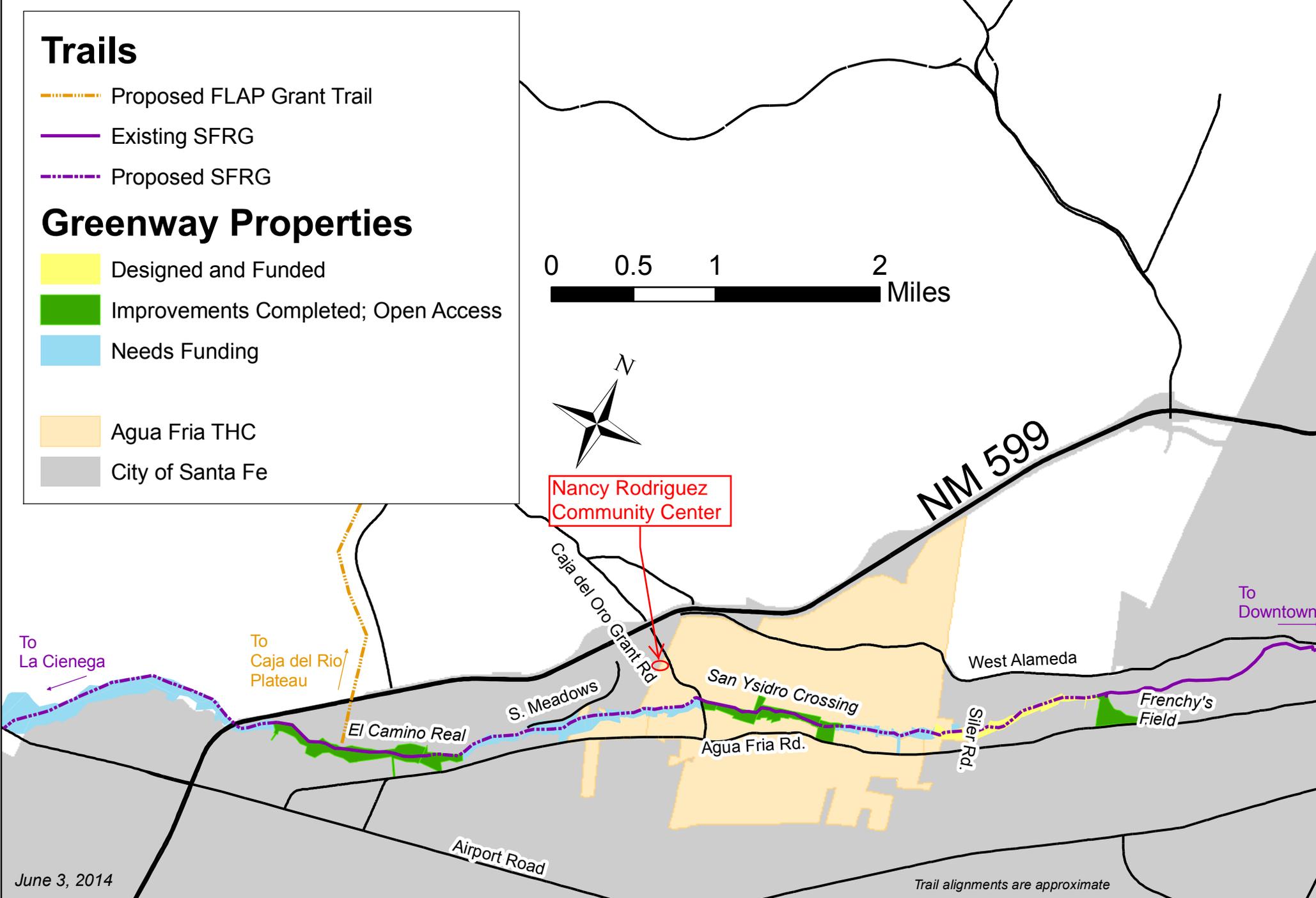
Santa Fe River Greenway Status

Trails

- Proposed FLAP Grant Trail
- Existing SFRG
- Proposed SFRG

Greenway Properties

- Designed and Funded
- Improvements Completed; Open Access
- Needs Funding
- Agua Fria THC
- City of Santa Fe



**Santa Fe River Greenway
Community Meeting
Siler Road to San Ysidro Crossing**

Tuesday, February 16, 2016

6:00 pm—8:00 pm

Nancy Rodriguez Community Center, 1 Prairie Dog Loop



You are invited to attend a community meeting to discuss the Santa Fe River Greenway between Siler Road and San Ysidro Crossing. The Greenway project includes river restoration and the construction of a multi-use trail.

County staff and the acquisition team will present a status report and answer questions. Representatives from the County Assessor's office and Sheriff's office have been invited to answer questions regarding how the project will affect your property.

For more information, contact:

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