



Colorado News



52-85 Trail in Brighton, CO.

Recent Success

Archuleta County and Town of Pagosa Springs Team Up on Master Plan

The County Planning Commission and the Town Park and Recreation Commission will meet in March to consider resolutions to adopt the collaborative Regional Parks, Recreation, Open Space and Trails Master Plan. The plan incorporates existing and ongoing town and county planning efforts and other parks, trails, open space and recreation plans; profiles an inventory of existing conditions, provides a needs assessment and defines a regional system of potential parks, open space and trails. The plan also includes recommendations for an operations and management plan and offers an implementation program that outlines priorities and phasing, budgets, an administrative structure and next steps to achieve the goals of the plan.

RTCA and The Greenway Team joined the Greenways Incorporated planning team to work with the Archuleta County Planning Commission and Board of Commissioners, the School District 50, Joint, the Pagosa Springs Town Council, and an appointed Technical Review Committee to develop recommendations

for this plan. Throughout the project, the planning team made significant efforts to involve a wide range of residents, landowners, stakeholders, agencies and organizations in the preparation of the plan. Public and private sector leadership and an effective partnership are essential to carry out the implementation program and goals of the plan. With many steadfast partners and a vision to the future, this master plan put into action will create a sustainable park and trail system for residents and visitors to enjoy.

Greenway Adds Bridge & Lanes

The Clear Creek County Greenway has grown to include a brand-new bridge, a re-designed intersection with Interstate 70, and striped bike lanes. As part of the on-going implementation of the planned greenway, the County received a grant from the Colorado State Parks division to help finance part of the 120-foot long bridge across Clear Creek. The bridge was part of the re-building of an intersection of Stanley Road, on the west side of the town of Idaho Springs and Interstate 70. The new intersection is much more navigable by non-motorized users and includes parking for a popular kayak take-out point.

Local advocates worked with the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) not only on the intersection re-design, but also succeeded in getting bike lanes on both sides of Stanley Road for about a mile and a half. The new bike lanes will extend to a proposed park adjacent to Clear Creek.

The Rivers and Trails program worked with Clear Creek County, the Open Space Commission, and their consultants in developing the master plan for the greenway. RTCA staff planned and facilitated some of the public meetings during the planning process and was instrumental in working with a variety of interests in the design of possible greenway alignments in the eastern part of the county.



The new bridge and intersection on the Clear Creek County Greenway.

Current Projects

1. Mosquito Range Heritage Initiative Trails Network

Project Goal: The South Park Region of Central Colorado, including the Hoosier Pass area and the Mosquito Range, presents a stunning array of high mountain peaks (“Fourteeners”) and passes, alpine cirques, rich fens and lower elevation sageland. The project area is approximately 112 square miles including public lands segmented by hundreds of patented mining claims, mill sites and other private in-holdings scattered piecemeal across the landscape. As part of their strategic plan, the Mosquito Range Heritage Initiative (MRHI) is working to create a network of recreation opportunities and preserve popular access routes for recreational users while respecting the rights of private property owners. The recreation goals include identifying and improving recreation facilities, improving access to recreation corridors, promoting responsible recreation use and generating new recreational business opportunities.

RTCA Role: RTCA will help community partners identify conservation strategies, foster partnerships, map and improve existing trails and connections to the towns and public lands, develop a conceptual trails plan, and enhance a strong organization to help maintain the quality of life for local residents and enhance the visitors’ experience in this spectacular mountain region.

NPS Contact: Kay Salazar

Partner: Mosquito Range Heritage Initiative



People engaged in illustrating trail routes during a public forum in Alma, CO.



2. Archuleta County Parks, Recreation, Open Space, and Trails

Project Goal: Archuleta County is a place of abundant resources with diverse and beautiful, world-class landscapes. Mounting development and growth pressures in the county have caused some of the essential quality of life elements - parks, recreation and open space, to be overlooked. An outcome of an intensive public process was a significant desire to protect undeveloped land, preserve viewsheds and establish a trails system linking important county amenities, towns and public lands. To meet the public desires and growing needs of the community, a master plan was produced for local governments and organizations to use as a tool to help guide development in order to create a sustainable park and trail system and ensure the quality of life in Archuleta County for residents and visitors alike.

RTCA Role: RTCA helped with planning parks, open space and trails, researched similar partnership and implementation examples, and identified funding sources for this project. RTCA will provide assistance to local organizations with planning for projects identified in the master plan.

NPS Contact: Kay Salazar

Partner: Archuleta County, Town of Pagosa Springs, Greenways Incorporated, The Greenway Team

3. Animas River Corridor Project

Project Goal: The residents of Silverton and San Juan County are working to expand their recreational opportunities and to improve the environmental conditions along the banks of the Animas River. The long-term vision of this project is to provide trails, recreation facilities, and river restoration along the river from Silverton up to the historic town site of Eureka, twelve miles north. After a series of well-attended staff and public meetings, a consensus was reached to focus energies on trails close to town. The town, county, the Mountain Studies Institute, and RTCA staff are working with numerous partners to build new trail and improve existing trails that are easily accessible by residents and visitors alike.



The Animas River flows towards Silverton, CO.

Current Projects



Local staff and trail advocates exploring Silverton's opportunities.

RTCA Role: In addition to helping with trail planning, RTCA staff is working to develop new partnerships and strengthen existing ones. Researching potential funding sources is another area of assistance, along with coordinating volunteer projects to help get the proposed trails on the ground.

NPS Contact: Hugh Osborne

Partner: San Juan County

4. Prairie Horizons Trail

Project Goal: The TransAmerica Bicycle Trail crosses the United States from Astoria, OR to Yorktown, VA. It passes through eastern Colorado on more than 140 miles of CO Highway 96. Thirteen eastern Colorado communities and three counties are working with RTCA, Kiowa County Economic Development Foundation, and the Colorado Department of Transportation to develop

a plan for the trail corridor in eastern Colorado which has been named the Prairie Horizons Trail. The group is working to create a welcoming atmosphere and safer environment for cyclists in the region by improving the trail and providing necessary amenities and information in order to enhance opportunities to experience this area's unique prairie environment.

RTCA Role: The group's goal is to improve more than 140 miles of on-highway trail and associated amenities to serve cyclists along the Prairie Horizons Trail segment of the TransAmerica Bicycle Trail as it passes through Crowley, Kiowa, and Pueblo Counties on State Highway 96 in eastern Colorado. RTCA will continue to act as a catalyst and facilitator guiding the communities through the process of developing a plan for the enhancement of this trail section.

NPS Contact: Joy Lujan

Partner: Town of Ordway

5. Kiowa County Trails

Project Goal: Kiowa County in southeastern Colorado is on the verge of receiving thousands of visitors per year to the area due to the recently established Sand Creek Massacre National Historic Site. The county would like to offer visitors an opportunity to experience its long and unique history and the landscape within which its history is embedded by providing trails and routes that highlight some significant natural and cultural resources.

RTCA Role: RTCA will assist the community in planning a county-wide system of trails and routes linking cultural and natural resources and that provides recreational and interpretive opportunities for county residents and visitors. RTCA will assist by gathering public comment, coordinating mapping, helping the communities prioritize and highlight significant resources and propose ways to connect those resources through a system of trails and routes.

NPS Contact: Joy Lujan

Partner: Kiowa County Historic Preservation Commission



Kids on segment of 52-85 Trail through Harney Park in Firestone, CO

6. 52-85 Trail Project

Project Goal: This RTCA led effort has resulted in a regional trail master plan featuring nearly fifty miles of trail that connects the communities of Firestone, Frederick, Dacono, Fort Lupton and Brighton and incorporates the unique scenic, cultural, natural, and historic resources of the area. RTCA will continue to work with the 52-85 group to coordinate the efforts of each of the involved municipalities, get the plan adopted and trail on the ground which will achieve the communities' shared vision and goals, and ultimately complete a broadly supported trail in this regional segment of a statewide trail network.

RTCA Role: The 52-85 Trail Project is a component of the Colorado Front Range Trail (CFRT), an effort by Colorado State Parks to create a multi-purpose trail from Wyoming to New Mexico along the Front Range of Colorado. RTCA is assisting five communities in two counties in creating a collaborative regional trails master plan for this section of the CFRT in northern Colorado.

NPS Contact: Joy Lujan

Partner: Town of Dacono

"The public involvement strategies of the RTCA staff helped us create a project that reflects the needs and desires of our community."
--Willy Tookey, San Juan County Administrator

We Want to Help You

Could Your Project Benefit from
RTCA Staff Assistance?

Joy Lujan, 303-969-2853

joy_lujan@nps.gov

Kay Salazar, 303-969-2857

kay_salazar@nps.gov

Hugh Osborne, 303-969-2781

hugh_osborne@nps.gov

Website - www.nps.gov/rtca