

## Proposed “Socorro Bosque Trail”: Status and Prospects in 2016

What: A proposed multi-use trail parallel to the Rio Grande in the area of Socorro, New Mexico

Who: “Healthy Kids Socorro County” working with City of Socorro and partners

Why:

- improved physical, mental, and spiritual health
- economic development
- improved access to and appreciation for riparian / bosque environment
- improved transportation options between communities and to bosque sites

Planning Background: Socorro Bosque Trail

- Northern Socorro County Comprehensive Plan (2006)
- Healthy Kids Socorro County (2014-15)
- Rio Grande Trail Planning Commission (Statewide)

Planning Background: Trails in Socorro Area

- City of Socorro Comprehensive Plan (2003)
- Socorro County Economic Development Plan (c. 2005)

Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP) Application (2015)

- Nine-mile alignment (Escondida Lake to Luis Lopez) along Low-Flow Conveyance Channel
- Original concept focused on San Acacia Levee
- City of Socorro as applicant, to provide local match and maintenance commitment
- Conditional Support by U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, pending finding of compatibility with maintenance needs and practices
- Supported by National Wildlife Refuges and BLM
- Not selected for funding

Prospective Recreational Trails Program (RTP) Application (Fall 2016)

- Shorter alignment, e.g. Otero Ave. north to diversion ditch (2.8 mi.) or Escondida Lake (4.8 mi.)
- City of Socorro to request USBR to review feasibility of a multi-use trail within USBR right-of-way
- City of Socorro to place project on Integrated Capital Improvement Program (ICIP) list
- HKSC to work through “Save our Bosque Task Force” to share information and develop proposal
- Consider feasibility/desirability of using old levee in the bosque ribbon
- Coordinate with Army Corps of Engineers, USBR, MRGCD regarding planned or desired improvements to crossing of Socorro diversion ditch for maintenance vehicles
- Coordinate with Socorro County regarding possible Escondida Lake trailhead improvements, Pueblitos Rd. crossing
- Publicize effort to Rio Grande Trail Planning Commission

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