**Socorro Valley Rio Grande Trail Plan**

1st Draft Work Plan April 2019

**Project Description**

The Socorro Valley Rio Grande Trail Segment project will design and build a 40 mile trail segment that connects San Acacia, NM to San Antonio, NM, along the Rio Grande. The completed trail will feature improved connectivity to Socorro, NM and may feature improved natural resource values within the Bosque in concert with Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District and U.S. Bureau of Reclamation management objectives.

**Anticipated Products**

* Trail Corridor Plan meeting objectives of Rio Grande Trail Commission
* Inclusive public participation effort
* Trail Stewardship recommendations and strategies

**Project Phases**

1. **Project Orientation Meeting (November 2018)**
	* Present concept of NPS RTCA support
	* Discuss project goals and purpose
	* Identify initial core planning team participants
2. **Project Kick-Off Community Meeting (February 2019)**
	* Present Rio Grande Trail Concept
	* Solicit ideas for Vision/Goals from public

DELIVERABLE(S) : Compiled Notes from Public Meeting

1. **Convene Core Planning Team (April 9, 2019)**
	* Discuss Project Vision and Goals
	* Establish Workgroups and identify key tasks
	* Establish project guiding principles

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Core Planning TeamOrganization | Role(s) | Key Contact |
| Save Our Bosque Task Force | Project Lead | Amy EricksonGina Dello Russo |
| Socorro County |  |  |
| City of Socorro |  |  |
| MRGCD |  |  |
| National Park Service | Facilitator, project management support | Attila Bality |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |

1. **Initial Site Visits to Segment Anchors, possible connector trailheads (May-June 2019)**
	* Meet on Site to identify and discuss issues and opportunities

DELIVERABLES:

* Reports to include possible trailhead locations, Connector Paths to USFWS properties, Connector Paths to/from trail to communities, Narrative of issues and opportunities discussed
1. **Corridor Assessment**
	* Data Needs
		1. Existing public uses (recreational and non-recreational); public safety
		2. Connectivity opportunities
		3. Environmental Conditions – wildlife, significant features, habitat
		4. Land ownership (especially for side trail connectors)
	* Relevant Planning Documents
		1. MRGCD
		2. BOR
		3. Rio Grande Trail
		4. Socorro County Comprehensive Plan
		5. Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan
		6. Community health assessments
	* Site Visits – Evaluate Preferred /Other route alternatives
		1. Develop trail segment evaluation criteria
		2. Identify preferred route(s)

DELIVERABLES: Reports summarizing data findings

1. **Issues and Opportunities Identification (Summer-Fall 2019)**

DELIVERABLES: Final Reports summarizing issues and opportunities

1. **Management Strategies (Fall-Winter 2019-2020)**
* Stewardship
* Agency Responsibilities
* Programming / Promotions / Policy

DELIVERABLES: Draft list of Proposed Agency Responsibilities, Stewardship Strategies for maintenance, Recommendations on organizational structure to manage trail, Ideas for promoting the trail and new programming to get people using it. Policy Recommendations

1. **Prepare Draft Trail Corridor Development Plan (Spring 2020)**
2. **Core Team , Public and Stakeholder Review of Draft Plan**
3. **Develop Final Trail Corridor Development Plan**
* Present to Councils, Commissions, Agency Leadership for Approval/ Adoption

**Public Participation Elements**

* Create a Communications Team Working Group
* Create “Trail Vision” publication for community distribution
* Develop news article for local newspaper and local non-profit newsletters
* Create key Talking Points for Core Team members and Working Group representatives
* Present Trail Concept to local organizations at their regularly scheduled meetings/gatherings
* Create portable display (maps, chalkboard, etc) for pop-up events at local retail locations, festivals, fairs, etc.
* Create project Website and Social Media page to share information and solicit ideas
* Organize hikes, rides, site visits along potential trail segments for public participation