

Galisteo Watershed Partnership

Project Contact:
Alan Ragins 505-988-6091
alan_ragins@nps.gov



Background

In the past several years, it has become clear that the Galisteo watershed is on the brink of significant changes. Recent and ongoing activities in the watershed include:

- Santa Fe County acquisition of approximately 2,500 acres of open space
- Earth Works Institute-led planning for watershed-wide environmental restoration activities
- County-led planning for growth and development of the San Marcos District
- Federally-led planning for archeological sites protection
- Commonwealth Conservancy-led planning for conservation-oriented development of a 13,000 acre historic ranch

In 2004, residents, landowners, and other stakeholders came together in two community meetings to work to define a common vision for the future of the watershed. Participants discovered a lot of common ground among diverse interests - and were able to articulate a clear vision for the future - but they quickly realized that there is no existing organizational structure to support concerted, collective work toward this desired future. Several participants suggested that an organization that promoted improved information sharing and coordination among the many different development and conservation activities occurring in the basin was critically needed. The Galisteo Watershed Partnership is being formed to address that need.

Vision

- Ecologically sensitive commercial and residential development
- Conservation of important ecological and cultural areas
- A more self-sustaining watershed community

GWP Goals

- Continue an open dialogue about the future of the area
- Educate the community about the watershed
- Provide input on how different development and conservation activities can be initiated or improved
- Collect and disseminate Galisteo watershed information

Partners Roles

- Expressing formal support for the Partnership vision
- Participating in bi-annual meetings of the Partnership
- Sharing information related to the properties you manage and your activities in the basin through these meetings, Partnership web site, biannual newsletters, and possibly a more technical data directory
- Providing input on how the partners' different development and conservation activities can be initiated or improved

Current Initiatives

Cerrillos Hills/Galisteo Basin State Park

Objectives: To establish a new state park in the Galisteo Basin. This park is envisioned as a partnership among NM State Parks Division, Santa Fe County, the Bureau of Land Management, the New Mexico State Land Office, the New Mexico Mining and Minerals Division, the Cerrillos Hills Park Coalition, the community of Cerrillos, and other organizations and supporters active in the Basin. Cerrillos Hills/Galisteo Basin State Park would protect outstanding natural, cultural and recreational resources and educate the public about important New Mexico historical themes that are not well represented in the state park system.

Current Status: In 2005, the NM state legislature approved establishment of the state park, subject to the completion of a feasibility study. The legislature has already appropriated some funds for development of the park, no operational funding. NM State Parks is exploring opportunities to enter into a cooperative agreement with Santa Fe County to manage the current 1,200-acre Cerrillos Hills Open Space owned by the County as a state park, including construction of a combination visitor/education center in the village of Cerrillos that would serve the park and the community while also providing a platform for related programs and efforts across the northern and western sections of the Galisteo Basin.

Participation Opportunities: NM State Parks will be working on the feasibility study, which will include appropriate public input, during 2005. Santa Fe County and the Cerrillos Hills Park Coalition coordinate current activities at the Open Space and welcome volunteer stewards.

Contact Information: Dave Simon, Director, New Mexico State Parks, P.O. Box 1147, Santa Fe, NM 87504; 476-3357; dave.simon@state.nm.us; www.nmparks.com

Galisteo Basin Archaeological Sites Protection

Project Objectives: To implement the Galisteo Basin Archaeological Sites Protection Act by protecting and preserving 24 sites in and around the Galisteo Basin. Five-year goals include:

- Complete a general management plan and facilitate the development of individual management plans for all listed sites.
- Complete cooperative agreements for listed sites as a means of accomplishing these goals.
- Obtain an annual federal funding appropriation for implementing the Act.
- Increase public and landowner awareness of the value of archeological resources.

Current Status: A “coordination group” representing federal, state, county, community, tribal, and private stakeholders has been meeting since December 2004 to implement the Act. BLM has signed an MOU with The Archaeological Conservancy, which owns or has an archaeological easement on all or parts of seven of the 24 listed sites, for implementing the Act. The Archaeological Conservancy held a workshop to discuss site management of three of the protected sites, La Cieneguilla Pueblo, La Cieneguilla Petroglyphs, and the Camino Real Site. We are contacting private site owners in order to work with them to implement the Act. We intend to launch a web site in August with information about the Act, the sites, and projects to implement the Act.

Participation Opportunities: We are looking for interested and committed people to volunteer for one of five subcommittees: The Land Use/Boundaries Subcommittee, The Sites Subcommittee, The Public Outreach Subcommittee, The Native American Liaison Subcommittee, and The Funding Subcommittee. (The Funding Subcommittee is tabled for now, but if you are interested in working on it, please let us know.)

Contact Information: Signa Larralde, Bureau of Land Management New Mexico State Office, 1474 Rodeo Road, Santa Fe, NM 87502, 438-7637, Signa_Larralde@blm.gov or Bob Powers, National Park Service, Paisano Building, 2968 Rodeo Park Drive West, Santa Fe, NM 87505, 988-6748, bob_powers@nps.gov.

The Galisteo Basin Preserve

Project Objectives: Commonweal Conservancy's vision for the Galisteo Basin Preserve is to create a nationally significant community development and land conservation project in central Santa Fe County, including:

- Creation of a compact, pedestrian-oriented, mixed-income, mixed-unit village that includes a large percentage of affordable and workforce homes, market rate lots, live/work lofts,
- An environmentally-based, dual language charter high school and small commercial center.
- An emphasis on resource efficiency, water conservation, healthy building techniques and proximity to a proposed transit system
- A 12,000-acre preserve that will embrace the village, and feature over 30 miles of publicly accessible trails for hiking, biking and equestrian use.

Current Status: Commonweal Conservancy has advanced the vision, planning and development of the Galisteo Basin Preserve since 2003. Over the next eighteen months, the organization hopes to complete the entitlement process for the village with Santa Fe County.

Contact Information: Commonweal Conservancy, 117 N. Guadalupe Street, Suite C, Santa Fe, NM 87501, 982-0071, ted.harrison@commonwealconservancy.org www.galisteobasinpreserve.com,

Galisteo Watershed Conservation Initiative

Project Objectives: Identification, mapping and recommendations for conservation of key natural and cultural landscape features as framework for protection of regional "Green Infrastructure".

Current Status: Developing project methodology

Participation Opportunities: Review and input on methodology and draft results.

Contact: Cyrus Samii, Santa Fe Conservation Trust, PO Box 23985, Santa Fe NM 87502, 989-7019, cyrus@sfct.org,

San Marcos District Community Plan

Project Objectives: Plan to guide future growth and development in the San Marcos District developed with broad-based participation. Plan and ordinance to support implementation adopted by Santa Fe County.

Current Status: The Planning Committee has been working since fall 2003. They are currently working on a Draft Plan that should be completed by September. The principle issues that are being addressed throughout the planning process are:

- Water supply and its relationship to residential density
- Wastewater management and pollution control
- Residential Lot Size
- Commercial Zoning—Uses and Location
- Agricultural Land Use
- Viewscapes and Night Sky
- Noise
- Open Space and Parkland
- Transportation and Circulation
- Code Enforcement

The committee is working from these issues toward a set of goals and action strategies for achieving the goals.

Participation Opportunities: Draft plan will be released at public hearings this fall for review and comment.

Contact: Beth Mills, Santa Fe County, 205 Montezuma Ave., P.O. Box 276, Santa Fe, NM 87504, 995-2727, bmills@co.santa-fe.nm.us

US Forest Service Hazardous Fuels Reduction

Project Objectives: Hazardous Fuels Reduction to Implement the National Fire Plan

Current Status: Preliminary Planning

Participation Opportunities: Future community meetings to aid in planning and design of project

Contact: Darcy A. Parker, Santa Fe National Forest Pecos/Las Vegas Ranger District, P.O. Drawer 429, Pecos, NM 87552, 757-6121, daparker@fs.fed.us

Watershed Restoration Action Strategy

Project Objectives: Watershed-wide plan for interventions to improve water quality and overall watershed health.

Current Status: 2005 WRAS completed and available for distribution.

Participation Opportunities: Galisteo Watershed Partnership and others may evaluate and pursue implementation recommendations.

Contact: Jan Willem Jansens, Earth Works Institute, 1413 Second Street, Suite 4, Santa Fe, NM 87505, 505-982-9806, ijw@earthworksinstitute.org, www.earthworksinstitute.org

Wetland Planning in the Galisteo Watershed

Project Objectives: Inventory of existing and historic wetlands and prioritization of wetland protection, restoration, and development opportunities. Implementation of two on-the-ground projects, including establishment of conservation easement buffers. Design of ongoing monitoring program with the US Army Corps of Engineers. Identification of economic incentives for wetland protection restoration and development projects.

Current Status: Inventory and assessment phase

Participation Opportunities: Public input through community meetings, volunteer participation in project steering committee, and public education and outreach activities.

Contact: Steve Vroman, Earthworks Institute , 1413 Second Street, Suite 4, Santa Fe, NM 87505, 490-0594, stevevroman@staraband.net, www.earthworksinstitute.org