

To: Status Report to the Parks and Recreation Board
From: Open Space Working Group
Date: November 7, 2025

Task 1: Participate in the public Comprehensive Plan Update process through the Community Development Department to ensure that open space and trails issues are addressed, particularly the zoning changes specified in the Open Space and Trails Management Plan.

OSWG contacted the Director of Community Development to ask about the start of the comprehensive planning. Director Issacson replied that the RFP for a contractor is on the street and the process will begin in early 2026. OSWG will be invited to participate in the process.

Task 2: Provide public information about open space issues through forums, tours, newspaper articles, and other methods to broaden public understanding of the management of open space and trails.

The Adopt-a-Trail plan (see task 4) also serves this purpose.

Task 3: Coordinate with the Equestrian and Livestock Working group in planning for a new equestrian trail from the stables to Bayo Canyon for use in the winter when other equestrian access trails are iced over.

OSWG and the Equestrian and Livestock Working Group held a joint meeting. The groups discussed the needs of equestrians for a safe winter route from the stables into Bayo Canyon and other locations. The two current routes--the "YCC Trail" and the historic Bayo Road (aka the Waterbar Trail)--are on the north-facing slope and are not safe in snow or icy conditions. The ideal alternate route would stay on the mesa top and use county-owned land to provide access to the area of the Diamond/San Ildefonso roundabout. The trail would require adequate signage concerning sharing the trail, avoid concrete or asphalt surfaces as much as possible, and accommodate parking for horse trailers at the trailhead.

This route would have an added benefit of linking all the current and planned recreational facilities on North Mesa for all users. Another potential benefit would allow moving the main Bayo Canyon Trailhead from its current limited parking area to North Mesa Picnic Grounds where there is already parking, picnic tables, and restrooms. Coordination with the Bike Park Working Group and the disc golf community will be sought before moving forward with a recommendation to the PRB.

Members of the two working groups met at the Posse Shack and walked the potential routes. The groups requested to be put on the agenda for the December PRB meeting to present their findings.

Task 4: Continue to develop Adopt-a-Trail plan and monitor conditions on County Open Space.

- OSWG members were tasked this past month with using the Los Alamos Now app to report trail or open space problems to the County. At its next meeting, members will share their experiences with using the app for this purpose. Also, members were asked to note features that would improve the capability of using the app for reporting trail issues.

- The group discussed desired features for the online interface and suggested that it be modeled after the County's Adopt-a-Road program. A discussion is needed with the Open Space Specialist about standardizing trail names and perhaps dividing trails into segments.
- It was suggested that the program start with listing five popular trails for adoption.

Other Business:

OSWG explored the potential for having a county trail designated as a National Recreation Trail to boost the visibility of the County Trail Network. This exploration is in the very early stages of development.

Respectfully submitted,

Craig Martin
Member, Open Space Working Group