Santa Fe National Historic Trail

Project Updates - Preservation, Interpretation, & Public Awareness

What’s New? Fall 2011

**Junior Wagon Master**
Graphic design is underway - the completion date is February 2012.

**Independence, MO**
Design for a five-exhibit project at McCoy Park has begun.

**Fort Marcy, NM**
City of Santa Fe is making preparations for exhibit installation.

**Bent’s New Fort, CO**
Five wayside panels are in progress for Bent’s New Fort in Lamar, Colorado. A site planning meeting will occur at the site in November.

**Diary Transcriptions**
Joy Poole is transcribing four diaries written by travelers on the Santa Fe Trail: Rowland Willard, 1825; Rebecca Cohen Mayer, 1852; John Jurnegan, 1854; Enos and Jennie Culver, 1869.

**Kaw Nation, OK**
Two waysides are being designed with the Kaw Nation to tell the history of the Santa Fe Trail from an American Indian perspective.

Website Updates

Visit the Santa Fe NHT website to see the Westport, Strang Park, and Dodge City Ruts exhibits: [www.nps.gov/safe/historyculture/exhibits.htm](http://www.nps.gov/safe/historyculture/exhibits.htm)

New Faces and Places

Our staff has increased to include three new faces: Coreen Kolisko and Kristin Van Fleet, landscape architects, and Kimberly Finch, interpretive specialist.

Dodge City Ruts Unveiling - September 24, 2011

Join us for the official Unveiling at Dodge City Ruts: Signage and Kiosk Enhancement. Funding through the Challenge Cost Share Program allowed National Trails Intermountain Region (NTIR) staff to work with the Santa Fe Trail Association and Boot Hill Museum to replace the fire-damaged portions of the walkway with a new recycled plastic section. Three new exhibits have been added under the shelter to connect the ruts site with sites east and west on the Santa Fe Trail. Two existing exhibits have been rehabilitated and are featured above. You can view these exhibits and others online by visiting: [www.nps.gov/safe/historyculture/exhibits.htm](http://www.nps.gov/safe/historyculture/exhibits.htm)

You’re Not Lost - Just Follow the Signs!

NTIR staff completed directional signing for Point of Rocks and Hertzein Museum and Original Route signing from Cimarron to Philmont in New Mexico. The new sign planning materials on the Santa Fe National Historic Trail website are currently being utilized by the Bent’s Fort Chapter for Bent, Otero, Las Animas, and Prowers counties in Colorado. Also, the Wagon Bed Springs Chapter is planning for Stevens, Grant, Haskel, and Kearny counties in Kansas. These projects total over $30,000.
Santa Fe National Historic Trail Rediscovery Survey

The NTIR will be launching an interactive map for the general public displaying sites that were surveyed for the Rediscovery Project in 2006. The information displayed on the online map will include those sites that are currently accessible to the public. The public will be able to access the map through several links, which will be posted on the NPS Santa Fe Trail website at www.nps.gov/safe and the Santa Fe Trail Association website at www.santafetrail.org. The remaining sites that lie on private property or are sensitive in nature will remain on the password protected site and will only be available to partners and NPS staff.

National Register Nomination Update

All five states that the trail crosses now have Santa Fe Trail nominations to the National Register of Historic Places. Association chapters are still encouraged to submit suggestions as to what properties they feel could be considered eligible candidates.

New Timeline

A new feature will be added to the Santa Fe National Historic Trail website this winter. It allows users to click through a geographic and pictoral history of the 59 years of the trail in a slideshow format.

Connect Trails to Parks

Coordinated with the Kansas City Area Historic Trails Association, thirteen wayside exhibits at Strang Park and Westport tell the story of the Santa Fe Trail and its effects in Missouri and Kansas. You can view all 13 exhibits at: www.nps.gov/safe/historyculture/exhibits.htm

Elsewhere on the Trail

McCoy Park
Independence, MO

This project is coordinated with the Oregon-California Trails Association. Four out of five wayside panels have been written and designed for McCoy Park in Independence, Missouri. NTIR staff visited the exhibit site in August to plan the fifth panel and to coordinate site planning.

Strang Park & Westport - Overland Park, KS, & Kansas City, MO

The Connect Trails to Parks exhibit project is reaching completion. The exhibits at Fort Larned NHS are already installed. Still to come are the exhibits for Fort Union NM, Bent’s Old Fort NHS, and Pecos NHP.