Santa Fe National Historic Trail

Project Updates - Protection, Development, and Promotion

Cimarron National Grassland Project Funded

Trail development at Cimarron National Grassland, funded through Connect Trails to Parks and beginning this winter, will include trail improvement and interpretive media about the Santa Fe NHT.

National Trails Intermountain Region (NTIR) is currently working with US Forest Service (USFS) staff at Cimarron National Grassland (Morton County, Kansas) to develop a project agreement.

The project consists of new and revised exhibits, pedestrian and road signing, and accessibility improvements at two trailheads. An additional trailhead is under consideration.

Certification

The Cimarron Heritage Center, in Boise City, Cimarron County, Oklahoma, entered into a partnership certification agreement with NTIR on March 15, 2016.

And it seems like only yesterday...

January 24, 2016 marked the 25th anniversary of the first partnership certification on the Santa Fe NHT—and for any of the national historic trails administered by the office now known as NTIR.

Between 1991 and today, NTIR has signed 200 partnership certification agreements across nine national historic trails. That includes 79 certifications along the Santa Fe NHT.

National Park Service Centennial

Let’s celebrate the NPS 100-year anniversary and raise awareness for trails! New publications that incorporate the Find Your Park logo are available to boost interest in visiting or learning about national historic trails.

Official Santa Fe NHT centennial events include two dedication events in Kansas City during the Partnership for the National Trail System conference in June, and Las Vegas Heritage Week (New Mexico) in August. If the association holds additional events, we ask that they be held in honor of the centennial.

Questions about events or materials? Email carole_wendler@nps.gov and include “Centennial Help” in the subject.

Examples of materials developed for the Find Your Park centennial campaign.
Design and Development Projects

- A cooperative agreement between Mid-America Regional Council (the Metropolitan Planning Organization for the bistate Kansas City area) and NPS will fund the 40-mile Santa Fe, Oregon, and California NHTs retranscement trail plan project for Kansas and Missouri.
- Road signs marking the Santa Fe, Oregon, and California NHTs are in place through Kansas City, Missouri! Santa Fe Trail Association members and other local partners are currently working to revise and enhance the plan based on public response to the installed signs. When the updated plan is implemented, road signs for all three trails on the Missouri side of the Kansas City Metro area will be in place.
- Planning is underway for signs along the shared three-trails route on the Kansas side of the Kansas City metro area in Johnson County.
- Directional signs to the newly certified Cave Spring site in Raytown, Missouri, purchased and installed this winter, link the site to the signed Santa Fe, Oregon, and California NHTs original route through the city.
- The City of Lexington, Missouri, has approved a final plan for signs marking the historic route of the Santa Fe NHT within the city limits.

GIS Update

Work continues to add pictures to the online Places To Go interactive maps at https://www.nps.gov/safe/planyourvisit/placesto.htm. If you have images you would like to share for any of the sites featured on the maps, please contact us: ntir_rim_team@nps.gov.

In November, NTIR staff joined members of the Santa Fe Trail Association (Mapping and Marking Committee along with others) for the third and final joint Mapping Workshop in Cimarron, New Mexico. Discussion and review focused primarily on the Mountain Branch route from Trinidad to Santa Fe as shown in the Comprehensive Management Plan’s Map Supplement.

Project Queue

Have a project idea? Please contact NTIR staff early in the process. The project queue is scheduled years ahead. If your project is time sensitive, we can also discuss other options for moving forward.

Can You See It? New Media Tour Short Films

Seeing the trail in the landscape is hard for new trail enthusiasts and veterans alike. There are two short films in the Santa Fe NHT Media Tour about identifying the trail and using the tour. Click Begin Tour and on the following page select How to Use This Tour at safe.toursphere.com

If you have tips on seeing the trail, please contact us. We’ll share them!

Children’s Musical Online

The 3-Trails Children’s Musical can be viewed on the Santa Fe NHT website in the Learn About the Park section: www.nps.gov/safe/learn/photosmultimedia/short-videos.htm

Museum Hill Update

Museum Hill entrance sculpture

Museum Hill partners—six cultural institutions located in Santa Fe, New Mexico—are enthusiastic about including Santa Fe Trail ruts and a walking trail in their new master plan for Museum Hill. NTIR is working with local partners to identify the Santa Fe trail experience at Museum Hill.

National Trails Intermountain Region

The National Park Service cares for the special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

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