



**NEW MEXICO**  
OUTDOOR RECREATION DIVISION

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ORD Director Karina Armijo

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**State invests \$6 million in trails and outdoor infrastructure**  
*29 of 39 funded projects expand access in rural and Tribal communities*

SANTA FE — The Outdoor Recreation Division of the Economic Development Department of New Mexico is investing nearly \$6 million to build and enhance more than 355 miles of trails and support 288 jobs across 21 counties.

The investment comes through the division's Trails+ Grant and represents the largest amount awarded in a single round to date. The total will be amplified by an additional \$4.8 million in matching — funds bringing the total public investment to \$10.8 million.

For this round, 59 applicants requested a record-setting \$12.7 million in funding. Of the 39 projects ultimately awarded, 29 will provide enhanced outdoor access in rural and Tribal areas.

“Expanding trails and outdoor access is a smart way to grow New Mexico’s outdoor economy sustainably — an economy that adds billions to our state’s GDP,” said **Economic Development Cabinet Secretary Rob Black**. “These projects provide jobs, keep our forests and watersheds healthy and encourage economic growth, especially in our rural communities.”

“It matters that Trails+ projects reach every part of the state because access shouldn’t depend on where you live,” said **Outdoor Recreation Division Director Karina Armijo**. “When communities have places to get outside, it creates real benefits for local economies and quality of life.”

Awarded projects range from creating educational trail signs, constructing ADA-friendly trails and campsites, designing and constructing bike trails and pump tracks, constructing a pedestrian bridge, feasibility studies and more.

The final round of FY26 Outdoor Recreation Trails+ Grant recipients include:

**Bernalillo**

- City of Albuquerque, Department of Municipal Development, \$1,000,000
- Rio Grande Community Farm, \$66,000

**Chaves**

- Eastern New Mexico University-Roswell, \$98,629

**Curry**

- City of Clovis, \$90,000
- City of Texico, \$184,250

**Doña Ana**

- Asombro Institute for Science Education, \$35,000
- Dona Ana Village Association, \$99,159
- Foundation for America's Public Lands, \$285,200
- Las Cruces Public Schools, \$49,352

**Eddy**

- City of Carlsbad, \$1,000,000
- National Cave and Karst Research Institute, New Mexico Tech, \$164,747

**Grant**

- Heart of the Gila, \$96,910

**Hidalgo**

- Hidalgo County, \$147,741

**Lea**

- City of Eunice, \$99,999

**Los Alamos**

- The Incorporated County of Los Alamos, Community Services Department, \$26,558 \

**McKinley**

- Southwest Indian Foundation, \$99,000
- Cottonwood Gulch Expeditions, \$99,999

**Mora**

- Collins Lake Autism Center, \$99,000

**Otero**

- Ancestral Lands Conservation Corps, a program of Conservation Legacy, \$98,183
- Public Lands Interpretive Association, \$99,964
- Sacramento Camp and Conference Center Inc., \$28,000

**Quay**

- City of Tucumcari, \$99,982

**Rio Arriba**

- National Ghost Ranch Foundation, Inc., \$98,600
- Northern New Mexico College, \$99,990
- Northern Rio Grande National Heritage Area, \$99,000

**San Miguel**

- Friends of the Las Vegas National Wildlife Refuge, \$80,215
- River Source, \$88,710

**Sandoval**

- Los Amigos de Valles Caldera, \$46,000
- Pueblo of Santa Ana/Tamaya Wellness Program, \$99,999

**Santa Fe**

- Mountain Cloud Zen Center, \$49,991
- New Mexico Wildlife Center, \$73,000
- Santa Fe Botanical Garden, \$25,000
- Santa Fe Children's Museum, \$99,999

**Sierra**

- City of Truth or Consequences, \$81,212

**Taos**

- Taos Land Trust, \$68,999
- Enchanted Circle Trails Association, \$262,342

**Torrance**

- Forest Stewards Guild, \$208,068

**Valencia**

- City of Belen, \$28,819
- Village of Los Lunas, \$499,000

"This \$1 million award for an accessible pedestrian bridge over the Pecos River is a great investment in our community and one of Carlsbad's most valued spaces," said **Carlsbad Mayor Richard D. Lopez**.

"This award allows us to complete a feasibility study for a river surf wave and master plan for Rotary Park," said **Assistant City Manager of the City of Truth or Consequences Traci Alvarez**. "We are ensuring that residents and visitors alike can safely and consistently experience the beauty of our landscape."

To explore all 39 projects in depth, visit [www.nmoutside.com/news](http://www.nmoutside.com/news).

The Trails+ Grant is administered by Outdoor Recreation Division, a division of Economic Development New Mexico. Since the Trails+ Grant program was established in 2020, \$39.8 million has been awarded to 282 projects across 29 counties and supported an estimated 2,650 jobs. Outdoor recreation continues to be a key driver of New Mexico's economy, contributing \$3.6 billion in value added and supporting over 31,000 jobs statewide.

The next round of applications will open July 1, 2026.



*Enchanted Circle Trails Association partnered with Youth Conservation Corps and Carson National Forest to improve six campgrounds and over 18 miles of trails with a Trails+ Grant.*



*The City of Carlsbad used FY25 Trails+ Grant funding to refurbish Lake Carlsbad Recreation Area at the Lower Tansill Dam.*



*Asombro Institute for Science Education built a 75-foot amphitheater and outdoor classroom in the Chihuahuan Desert Nature Park with a Trails+ Grant and will build a shade structure next.*

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*EDD's mission is to improve the lives of New Mexico families by increasing economic opportunities and providing a place for businesses to thrive. EDD's programs contribute directly to this mission by funding workforce training and infrastructure that supports business growth, helping every community create a thriving economy.*

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