

# Animas River Corridor Revitalization Project

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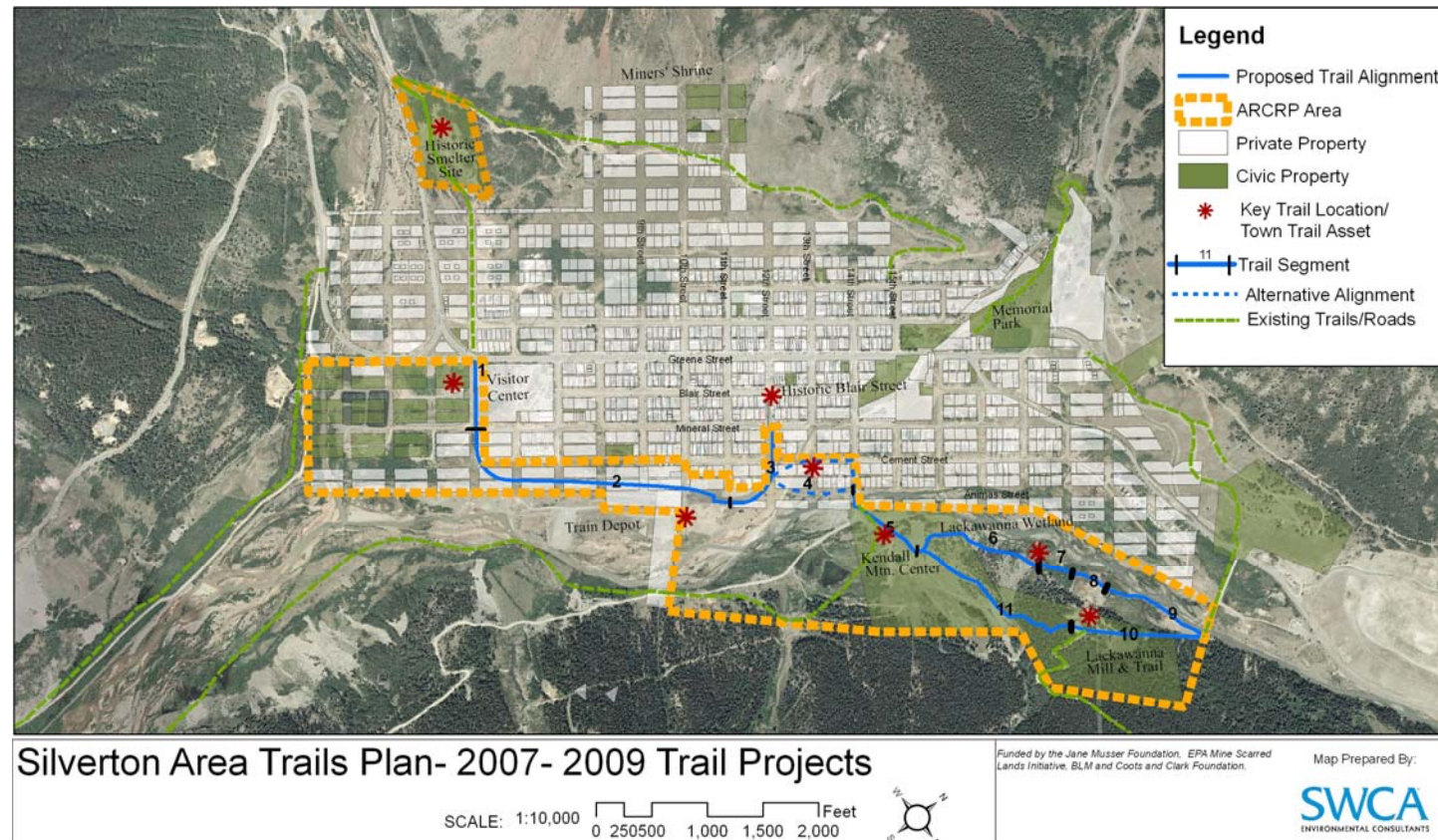
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## Animas River Corridor Revitalization Project



### 2009 Project Schedule

**Art-Trailhead Pieces Installed!**  
July Event—

**Trail Building Season Begins!**  
June—October 2009

**Animas River Festival,**  
September TBA

**Trail Building Workshop**  
FREE! July 31– Aug 2  
Learn hands on skills for building trails!

### 2009 Project Sponsors

**New!** Silverton School/El Pomar Youth in Community Service

**New!** National Park Service's River, Trails, and Conservation Assistance 2009-2010 Funding

**New!** Great Outdoors Colorado  
Laura Jane Musser Fund  
Coutts & Clark Western Foundation  
Mountain Studies Institute  
Bureau of Land Management  
San Juan County  
Durango-Silverton Narrow Gauge

### Project Information

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## Animas River Corridor Revitalization Project

The Animas River Corridor Revitalization Project (ARCRP) is a process for San Juan County residents to develop a vision and implement coordinated projects that incorporate economic renewal and the development of recreational amenities including new trails, fish habitat improvements, a water park, and other economic opportunities based upon ecologically sound restoration activities. The process builds upon existing planning documents such as the 1998 San Juan County & Town of Silverton Master Plan and the Silverton Area Trails Plan. The project engages the community through many

different opportunities to be involved: trail building, public art, focus groups, oral history-scrapbook project, trail leadership workshops, and the Animas River Festival & Cleanup. Mountain Studies Institute (MSI) is providing leadership, coordination, and funding for the public engagement process, implementation of specific projects, and planning. Alpine Environmental conducted the Preliminary Environmental Assessment and provides environmental services, and San Juan County Historical Society provides historical guidance and information. San Juan County residents have donated hundreds of hours as volunteers to the project.

## Project Goals

The community objectives were refined to be:

- Cleanup the old Town Dump Site to reuse as trails and open space.
- Develop a Cleanup, Restoration and Reuse Plan for the Lackawanna Mill site.
- Restore wetlands and riparian habitat along the corridor to improve water quality, reduce flooding and increase wildlife.
- Develop trails and open space with recreation amenities that are accessible and designated to meet the needs of a variety of users for hiking, skiing, and snowmobiling.
- Develop a master plan for the Kendall Mountain Community Center & Recreation Area.
- Incorporate art and historic interpretation to tell the story of Silverton's mining and mountain heritage, and its future.

## 2008 Accomplishments

In 2008, the Revitalization Plan achieved:

- Signed a MOU for trail development between Town of Silverton, DSNRR, & MSI
- Over 50 volunteers helped to build 1500 feet of new trail and repair existing trails
- National Park Service River, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program (RTCA), and MSI hosted a trail leadership and design training
- Material and equipment was donated by local businesses to construct a brand new trail section of trail near the Train Depot
- Lackawanna wetlands trail was improved and repaired, and Army Corp of Engineers approved the wetland trail improvements
- Trails logo was designed by local graphic artist Gina Carmack of Creative Crackerjack
- Shan Wells, Durango artist, was commissioned to design and build two art pieces from D.
- Funding was secured from Silverton Schools/El Pomar program, NPS RTCA, and Great Outdoors Colorado for Cement Creek Bridge Feasibility Study.

## ARCRP Silverton Area Trails Project— Making Ground 2009

Endorsed by San Juan County Commissioners, Town of Silverton Board of Trustees & Silverton/San Juan Co. Planning Commission



Lackawanna wetland trail improvements were approved for construction by Army Corp of Engineers for 2009

### 2009 Trail Goals

- **Finish 2 trails started in 2008**
- **Install 2 gateway art pieces**
- **Co-host the Animas River Festival**
- **Complete Lackawanna wetland trail improvements**
- **Complete Cement Creek Bridge Feasibility Study**
- **Solicit 2010 trail**

MSI, Town of Silverton, San Juan County, National Parks Service, Durango Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad (DSNGRR), and various local groups will complete two sections of the Silverton trail system that were initiated in 2008— the Visitor Center to Silverton Depot and the Lackawanna wetlands walk!

The Depot trail was a brand new trail in 2008 granted by the generosity of the DSNGRR for rights of way to cross through their property. The trail will eventually link the Visitors Center to the Silverton Northern engine house and DSNGRR Depot, and will include interpretation, outdoor exhibits, and mine relics.

The Lackawanna wetlands walk will provide a dry option for hikers between Kendall Ski Area

and the Lackawanna Bridge, and will protect the wetland from damage.

Two artistic trailhead gateway signs that were commissioned in Fall of 2008 will be installed as a trailhead marker that is inspired from Silverton's railroad, mining and mountain heritage.

Volunteer groups, both local and regional, will join in throughout the summer to implement project goals that will benefit residents and visitors alike. The hope is to simultaneously install some trail sections while also building a sense of local stewardship, building appreciation for existing trails and future projects around Silverton, incorporating art and interpretation, and bringing the community together to work towards a common goal. Please join us!

## Animas River Festival – September 2009

**ANIMAS RIVER FESTIVAL:** Animas River Stakeholders Group (ARSG), BLM, EPA, Town of Silverton, San Juan County, MSI and DSNGRR are partnering again this year to celebrate the Animas River as the Animas River Festival. The event will combine good, roll-up-the-sleeves cleanup in the river corridor, with planting seeds and trail work, exhibits, refreshments and more! The Animas River Festival was started in 2001 to celebrate the restoration and reclamation achievements of the ARSG, and that tradition continues. This year's festival will organize volunteers to help to finish a BLM-sponsored clean up of the area with reseeding and trail building.

### SILVERTON TRAIL DAYS – JULY 31st – AUGUST 2nd

National Park Service trail-guru Hugh Osborne and MSI's Trail Coordinator Jeremy Yanko will lead Trail Days on July 31– August 2nd for interested Silverton participants to learn hands-on tricks and techniques for implementing local trail projects. The Silverton workshop will present high country trail techniques, trail crew training, and educational events. To participate in one or both of the sessions, contact Jeremy Yanko to sign up.

## Silverton Area Trails Network Needs You!

We are incredibly grateful to all of the many volunteers and businesses who supported the Trails project last year! In 2009, we are continuing to seek donations or assistance that you may be able to contribute to this project. There are many ways that you can contribute, such as volunteering on a trail day, donating equipment, or helping to organize other volunteers. You could also "Adopt a Trail" segment with a group or friends. Specifically we are looking for volunteers, gravel, construction materials, shovels, rakes, gloves, Pulaskis, wheel barrows, sledge hammers and/or any support or help that you can provide!

Whether its calling volunteers, digging holes, or attending public meetings, we need and appreciate your help.

### WANT TO BE INVOLVED?

#### Examples of Ways that You Can Contribute:

- Sign up for Volunteer Days or workshop.
- Adopt a section of trail with a group.
- Donate tools or equipment.
- Donate gravel, rebar, or materials.
- Help design a trail logo or trail map.
- Help research interpretive exhibits.

Contact MSI Trail Coordinator Jeremy Yanko- 970-903-5809 or [jyanko@frontier.net](mailto:jyanko@frontier.net)



Many thanks to Pete Maisel and his construction crew for cutting the new DSNGRR trail in Fall of 2008!

## Durango Artist Commissioned for Two Trailhead Art Pieces

Shan Wells isn't your ordinary paint-and-canvas artist. His canvas usually involves the mountains, deserts, rivers and natural processes that surround his pieces. In the case of the Silverton trail art project that means it includes wrought iron, steam engine stacks, rail ties, and bright red flowers grown a little wild. Shan is a conceptual sculptor that takes his inspiration from the varied landscapes and heritage of the southwestern places where he works. His sculpture is a response to relationship between communities and their landscapes—how communities are formed and change, how they utilize resources, and how

the landscape shapes their lives. In this case, it's the connection between the railroads, the minerals, mountains, and the people who worked these lands, a poetic metaphor that invites questions more than supplies answers. All donated by DSNGRR, its made of rusty metal cranks, railroad ties, and a steam engine stack—originally fabricated for western movies shot in Silverton—invoking the original machines and processes of railroads and mining, but the workings here are symbolic of a new relationship. His artwork will be installed during in July of 2009. See more of Shan's work at [www.shanwells.com](http://www.shanwells.com).



Conceptual Illustration of the art piece

## Silverton Middle School Students Learn about Bridge Design

Dean Bosworth, local structural engineer, met with Silverton Middle School students to teach them a few of the fundamentals of bridge design as part of the Cement Creek Feasibility Study Project. Dean showed the students several examples of historic bridges in San Juan County and talked about the principles of structural engineering. The students helped Dean to brainstorm ideas and priorities for a pedestrian bridge over Cement Creek. Students are interested in volunteering to help build or adopt a section of the trail in the future.

The Cement Creek Feasibility Project was funded by Great Outdoors Colorado for the Town of Silverton to explore locations for a pedestrian bridge crossing over Cement Creek as part of the Silverton Trails plan. MSI is providing project leadership and community out reach. Dean Bosworth is providing structural engineering and assessment. SWCA is providing wetland research and project coordination.

## Silverton Trails Logo Designed by Local Artist, Gina Carmack

Gina Carmack, of Creative Crackerjack, donated her time to develop three designs for a Silverton Trails logo. The logo will be used to sign the trails in the Silverton system and help trail users to find segments of the trail that weave in and through Silverton. The final design was selected for its combination of rivers, trails and mountains into a simple graphic that could be printed on cards, t-shirts and other trail signs.



## Plans for the Future— 2010 and beyond

To keep this project going, MSI, Town of Silverton, and our project partners have submitted several grant proposals seeking funding for more trail construction, historic interpretation for the trail, and other components of the Revitalization Plan. In particular, we hope to fundraise for building the Cement Creek Bridge near 12th and Cement Street, breaking ground on new priority trails in the Trails Plan, developing a vision for Lackawanna Mill redevelopment,

and other restoration projects along the corridor. Also on the to-do list are adding interpretation of Silverton's cultural and natural history along the trail, creating a unique way finding system along the trail, installing trail logos, and printing a map brochure. We would like to hear from you regarding your ideas for the next project! Please let us know what you would like to see in the next decade!