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Volume 2, Issue 1

San Juan County, Colorado



2008 Project Schedule

Durango/Silverton Trail Building Workshop, Durango, May 16th -18th
FREE! Learn to build trails & organize volunteers.

Sign Artist Announced
May 15th

Trail Building Season Begins!
June—October 2008

Silverton Trail Building Workshop, Silverton, July 11th -13th
FREE! Learn hands on skills for building trails!

2008 Project Sponsors

Laura Jane Musser Foundation
Coutts & Clark Western Foundation
Bureau of Land Management
San Juan County
Durango Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad
SWCA Environmental Consultants
National Park Service River, Trails and Community Assistance Program

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 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.



2006 Animas River Festival & Cleanup

Project Goals & Recent Accomplishments

The purpose of this project is to create a community vision and then implement community-based projects to clean up, revitalization and reuse of the 2 mile section of the Animas River Corridor in Silverton that incorporates the mining history, recognizes the unique San Juan community spirit, and respects the natural beauty of the Animas River.

The six project 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 des-

igned 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.

In 2006, the project created a community vision for the Revitalization Plan, conducted a Preliminary Environmental Assessment, and researched Funding Opportunities to support the Plan. The plan was endorsed by Town of Silverton Board of Trustees, San Juan County Commissioners, and San Juan County/Town of Silverton Planning Commission in 2006. In 2007, MSI raised \$50,000 in cash and technical assistance to implement the ARCRP, hired a trails coordinator, and worked with project partners to develop ROW agreements for the trail alignment.

ARCRP Silverton Area Trails Plan— Breaking Ground 2008

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



Jeremy Yanko takes notes at a potential crossing for Cement Creek

2008 Trail Goals

- **Secure MOU & ROW Agreements**
- **Improve & build 2 miles of trail**
- **Commission & install 2 artistic gateway signs**
- **Host 2 Trail Workshops**
- **Design & build Phase I of Swansea Gulch boardwalk**
- **Solicit 2009 trail funding**

MSI, Town of Silverton, San Juan County, National Parks Service, Durango Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad, and various local groups will be working hard to implement a decade-old goal at the center of the Revitalization Project – the Silverton Area Trails System! MSI has been awarded several grants to construct or improve 2 miles of trail in Silverton this summer. This summer's trail goals include a trail section following the old Silverton Northern Railroad grade from the Visitor's Center, passing the DSNR Depot, and ending at 12th & Cement Street. Also, we will tackle a wet section of the Swansea Gulch wetland trail by designing and building about 50 feet of boardwalk that will provide a dry option for hikers between Kendall Ski Area

and the Lackawanna Bridge, and to protect the wetland from damage. Two artistic, trailhead gateway signs will also be installed to serve as an entry to the trail network while providing interpretation of Silverton's heritage, ecology, and culture. 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 both install some trail sections, but also to instill local stewardship, to build appreciation for existing trails and future projects around Silverton, to incorporate art and interpretation, and to bring the community together to work towards a common goal. Please join us!

Free Trail Building Workshops— May & July

DURANGO/SILVERTON WORKSHOP:

The International Mountain Biking Association (IMBA) and their team of trail experts drop down to Durango May 15th thru 18th to teach sustainable trail building techniques to Silverton and Durango volunteers and trail crew leaders. MSI, Durango's Trails 2000, and the National Park Service are joining forces to host the early season workshop in Durango for a "hands on" trail workshop uninhibited by the lingering Silverton snowpack. The Colorado-based IMBA brings 20 years of on-the-ground experience in trail work built on strong partnerships with private landowners and land managers. IMBA has scheduled 58 workshops throughout the U.S for

2008 and has selected Silverton and Durango as an important visit based on new and old trail projects.

SILVERTON WORKSHOP:

National Parks Service staff Hugh Osborne and MSI's Trail Coordinator Jeremy Yanko will lead a workshop July 11th-13th just for interested Silverton participants to learn hands-on tricks and techniques for implementing local trail projects. The Silverton workshop will combine ideas presented at the Durango IMBA event with high country trail techniques. To participate in one or both of the sessions, contact Jeremy Yanko to sign up.

Silverton Area Trails Network Needs You!

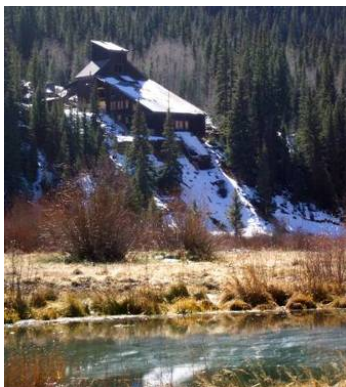
We are seeking any donation or assistance you may be able to contribute to this project. There are many ways that you can contribute, such as volunteering on a trail day, donating equipment, or helping to organize other volunteers. You could also "Adopt a Trail" segment with a group or friends. Specifically we are looking for volunteers, gravel, construction materials, shovels, rakes, gloves, Pulaski's, wheel barrows, sledge hammers and/or any support or help you can! Whether its calling volunteers, digging holes, or attending public meetings, we need 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)



Lackawanna Mill and wetland near area for 2008 trail improvements