

## ***Outdoor Recreation Trails+ Grant projects with CWA connections***

**2021**

[2021 Outdoor Recreation Trails+ Grant Awardees Announced - New Mexico Economic Development Department](#)

### **Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District, Town of Bernalillo, New Mexico**

**Paddlers Coalition** The project will develop river access to the Rio Grande on the northeast side of the Highway 550 bridge allowing boaters, birders, and anglers to access the river. The project will also provide for picnicking and nature study near the river. The 550 River Access will involve construction of 2 boat ramps (upstream and downstream of the bridge), gates and pipe rails to control vehicle access, a parking area, five picnic tables, and redirection of the NMDOT storm water pump station outflow to create a riparian area on the south side of the bridge. Location: Sandoval County / Town of Bernalillo Award: \$25,000.00

**Rio Grande Return** The project will restore the ecological integrity of a one-half mile stretch of the Santa Fe River Park and Trail by replanting native cottonwood and various willow species -- vegetation that was nearly entirely washed out in the 100-year flood event of July 2018. This habitat restoration and enhancement project supports several complementary improvement efforts designed to promote the trail as one of three primary urban trail spines serving the Santa Fe area, along with the Rail Trail and Arroyo Chamisa Trail. The parkway provides open space corridors, trails for walking and exercise, a series of parks and public greenspaces, as well as a way for bicycle commuters to get to and from downtown safely. Location: Santa Fe Award: \$25,000.00

**River Reach Foundation, Inc.** This signage project will promote a network of recreational and economic opportunities along the Animas and San Juan River trails by not only developing them as recreational destinations, but also providing the opportunity to enhance river access and educate users about proper water safety and appropriate skill levels in various areas of the two rivers. The signage will define river information and rules, mapping information that clarifies river miles between access points, areas where egress is and is not permitted, hazard zones and rapids, length of segments with recreational skill levels, and areas where floating and/or tubing is or is not appropriate. Location: Farmington Award: \$19,074.00

**Tajique Land Grant** The Land Grant-Merced Regional Outdoor Recreation Project is a collaboration of seven land grants (the Tajique, Chililí, Manzano, Town of Tomé, Torreón, Cañón de Carnué and San Antonio de las Huertas Land Grants) located around the Manzano and Sandia Mountains that seek to collectively create a land grant-merced youth conservation crew to work on several projects in seven land grants

across four counties. The projects include trail creation and improvement (including trail improvements around a fishing lake, recreation and camping area, and community playground), creating and improving community parks and playgrounds, and building erosion controls at community centers and playgrounds and at a popular spiritual and pilgrimage site. Location: Tajique Award: \$25,000.00

**The Nature Conservancy** This project will support efforts to increase accessibility and usability to the Santa Fe Canyon Preserve (SFCP), a 525-acre nature preserve that is open to the public and includes a 1.5-mile interpretive loop trail. Years of restoration and conservation work has turned what was once the center of the city's hydroelectric industry into an oasis with wildflowers, willows, deer, and beaver. Funding will support trail improvements to existing trails, building a new ADA compliant pathway, replacing the current 20-year-old illegible interpretative signage with multilingual signage that includes English, Spanish and Braille and build a new educational gathering space for students and families. Location: Santa Fe Award: \$25,000.00

## 2022

[\\$2.74 Million in Funding Awarded Through Trails+ Grant - New Mexico Economic Development Department](#)

[Outdoor Recreation Investments set to benefit 20 communities, create 175 jobs - New Mexico Economic Development Department](#)

**Audubon Southwest (\$25,000, Tier I):** The Randall Davey Audubon Center continues its 35 years of success in connecting Santa Fe with the outdoors. Their new Nature Discovery Area features hands-on play, wildlife viewing, and an awesome tree house. The requested funds will support bilingual interpretive and wayfinding signage to connect visitors with Audubon's conservation work, the natural and cultural resources of the center, and promote outdoor experiences beyond just a play area. Interpretive signs will include topics such as local bird species, bird watching basics, climate change, native plants, water conservation, the historic Acequia del Llano found on the property, and more.

**City of Sunland Park (\$29,084, Tier I):** This project will provide upgrades and improvements to the 1.3-mile Paseo Del Sol Trail and existing amenities. This trail includes river access and is used by runners, horseback riders, hikers, and other recreationists. In addition, the river provides refuge to many bird species. The vision is to provide residents and trail users access to amenities such as canopies and picnic tables to enjoy nature. Updates will incorporate trail improvements such as wayfinding, picnic shelters, and wildlife viewing, including birdwatching and nature walks. This project provides an opportunity to reinvent communities by creating healthier and more

resilient cities. For the City of Sunland Park, this is an opportune time to develop an expansive trail network along the Rio Grande and for the residents in New Mexico.

**Rio Grande Return (\$94,078, Tier I):** The Rio Grande Return (RGR) project goal is to conduct green stormwater infrastructure analysis, surveys, and design planning. The project will also continue restoration efforts along the Santa Fe River Park and Trail by replanting native cottonwood and willow species. RGR is expanding on the work of three separate replanting efforts in the Spring of 2019, 2021, and 2022. RGR is now also working to design engineered GSI restoration approaches for arroyos feeding the river whose soils, banks, and channels are rapidly degrading. Continued investments in these systems protect both our community and our environment.

**Taos Land Trust (\$99,000, Tier I):** The Taos Land Trust project includes four infrastructure improvements to Rio Fernando Park. The first is to design, plan, and construct a universal-access trail that will increase access, improve drainage across the trail, and add access to the Vigil y Romo acequia. The second is to extend the existing wetlands access trail to provide further interaction with wetlands habitat. The third improvement is to develop a landscaping plan, incorporating existing and new elements based on green infrastructure concepts. The fourth is to design and plan an energy efficient indoor/outdoor classroom space for ecological education.

### ***Outdoor Equity Fund projects with CWA connections***

**2020 OEF Awards Sept 2020.pdf** ([newmexico.gov](https://newmexico.gov))

**Fly Fish NM** Fly Fish is a nonprofit providing education and outdoor access to underprivileged youth interested in learning how to fly fish. Events will teach youth safety considerations when planning a fishing trip, demonstrate proficiency assembling and casting a fly rod, conservation and preservation of fish habitat, and grant free access to participants to these events. The goal is to foster stewardship and respect for our lands, our wildlife, and our waters. Award: \$15,000 Location: Youth accessible fisheries throughout New Mexico [www.flyfishnm.org](http://www.flyfishnm.org)

**Global Opportunities Unlimited** Global Opportunities Unlimited is an inclusive educational fishing and watershed project for disabled, disadvantaged, and low-income children. Participants will learn about aquatic ecosystems and the effects of changes in climate. Award: \$13,000 Location: Bernalillo, Sandoval, Rio Arriba, and San Juan Counties [www.gounlimited.org/](http://www.gounlimited.org/)

**Heart of the Gila, Inc.** Heart of the Gila is focused on engaging Grant County youth and their guardians in environmental education opportunities focused around local streams, rivers, and watersheds. Playing, exploring, and enjoying rivers and streams creates a connection to our changing climate through the visual impacts of drought and shrinking watersheds. Including primary caretakers in this project allows for the continuity of meaningful outdoor experiences and can serve to create lasting relationships to wild places. Award: \$11,388 Location: Grant County [heartofthegila.org](http://heartofthegila.org)

**Hermit's Peak Wilderness Alliance (HPWA)** HPWA has been working vigorously to lay the groundwork for a sustained and long-lasting revitalization effort of the Gallinas River. It is anticipated that this project will foster "querencia" (a love of and connection to place), as engaged youth gain a greater sense of pride and responsibility for the river that supports their community. Award: \$14,543 Location: Las Vegas, N.M.  
[www.hermitsspeakwatersheds.org](http://www.hermitsspeakwatersheds.org)

**Karuna Colectiva** Karuna Colectiva is a "work, learn, earn" environment for indigenous youth to enhance the autonomy, creative skills, health, and success through holistic practices and traditional culture. The program aims to connect indigenous youth back to the water, by taking bike rides along the Bosque trails and learning about the vital necessity of natural environments that are rooted in our cultural identities. Our leaders and guides will help indigenous youth understand the value of their tribal identity and its relevance to the natural world. Award: Albuquerque Location: \$5,000  
[www.facebook.com/karuna.colectiva](https://www.facebook.com/karuna.colectiva)

**Mil Abrazos Community Land Trust: The Enduring Acequia Program** The Enduring Acequia Program aims to reacquaint modern children with the Acequia, which is essential to maintaining fertility for food production in the area, and will include a diversity of approaches to engage their curiosity, inherent desire to be honored and useful in their community, and prepare them to take the reins of the Acequia management when they come of age. The program will recruit local ranchers and farmers to present the history, anecdotes, historical characters, and events that have shaped this area and made it so unique and worth preserving. Award: \$6,000 Location: Guadalupe County [www.milabrazos.org](http://www.milabrazos.org)

**River Source, Inc.: Getting Hands Engaged in Outdoor Pathways Project** The Getting Hands Engaged in Outdoor Pathways Project will include a wide array of outdoor recreational activities that will teach youth about living as good stewards of their watersheds by providing watershed science education, planning, monitoring, and ecological restoration. By including community elders, it becomes an environmental intergenerational project and nurtures the next generation of outdoor recreation superheroes. Award: \$15,000 Location: Bernalillo; Rio Arriba; Santa Fe; Taos; and Valencia Counties [riversource.net](http://riversource.net)

**Zuni Youth Enrichment Project** All Zuni prayers and traditions are rooted in bringing water to the A:shiwi (Zuni people) to grow food and survive. Different factors including climate change, drought, and upstream damming have dried up the Zuni River. The Zuni Youth Enrichment Project provides opportunities in opposite seasons to use water-based outdoor recreation as a vehicle for educating Zuni youth about the impacts and consequences the Zuni River has on the land, the people, and the traditional religion. Youth will be engaged in outdoor recreation they typically don't have access to while getting a better understanding of bigger issues and the role the outdoor recreation industry can play in conservation efforts. Award: \$15,000 Location: Primarily Zuni Pueblo with trips taken to Taos County [www.zyep.org](http://www.zyep.org)

## 2021

[2021 OEF Awards.pdf \(newmexico.gov\)](#)

**Bosque Ecosystem Monitoring Program (BEMP)** Through its environmental monitoring program, BEMP will support monthly, in-depth outdoor education for students and their teachers from low-income schools by collaborating to collect field data to track long-term change in the Middle Rio Grande bosque. Albuquerque Award: \$20,000

**Doña Ana Village Association (DAVA)** The village will teach youth about the importance of the national historic trail through community outdoor activities, including community gardening, walking tours of the village, and restoration of historic acequias. Doña Ana County Award: \$20,000

**Embudo Valley Tutoring Association (EVTA)** EVTA will work in collaboration with Embudo Valley Library (EVL) to present an agriculture-based outdoor program to K-6 students at their afterschool program. The program will take place on the grounds of the EVL which is at the heart of the Embudo Valley, surrounded by the valley walls, an orchard and community gardening with acequia access, and an expanse of BLM land with access to natural areas within a short walking distance. Dixon Award: \$2,775

**Gila Resources Information Project (GRIP)** GRIP's Silver City Watershed Keepers Summer Camp will provide Grant County children with summertime outdoor experiences that foster stewardship and respect for the area's land, water, and cultural heritage through outdoor activities, field trips, hands-on projects and nature study in the Silver City and the Mimbres River Watersheds. Silver City Award: \$9,700

**Global Opportunities Unlimited Inc.** Provides inclusive educational fishing and watershed education for disabled, disadvantaged, and low-income children, using

adaptive technology to expand the availability of outdoor opportunities to people with disabilities. Participants will learn about aquatic ecosystems and the effects of climate change. Albuquerque Award: \$7,700

**Hermit's Peak Watershed Alliance** This program will provide opportunities to local youth for birding, fly fishing, and participating in in the Gallinas River Park revitalization with the goal of fostering "querencia" (a love of and connection to place), as engaged youth gain a greater sense of pride and responsibility for the river that supports their community. Sapello Award: \$20,000

<https://youtu.be/HClRykb0QRo>

**Localogy** Vida Camp connects youth in northern Taos County with their foodshed, watershed, and resilient culture. Youth will explore local farms, ranches, and streams while engaging in work to improve the community such as working on the acequias, harvesting produce for the food pantry, and mural painting downtown. The goal is for campers to become active stewards of vital systems through fun and engaging service learning. Questa Award: \$15,000

**Mil Abrazos Community Land Trust** The Enduring Acequia program aims to educate and train a new generation of parciantes, commissioners, and Mayordomos on the importance of maintaining, upgrading, efficiently managing, and cherishing the Vado de Juan Paiz acequia, thus ensuring the preservation of the acequia, which is essential to food security in the region. La Loma Award: \$18,220

<https://youtu.be/SzUQlStiwPc>

**River Source Inc.** Watershed Job Pathways nurtures the next generation of water and land protectors by combining ecological science with traditional knowledge. The program utilizes a myriad of activities to enable students to have fun while engaging in a STEM-based education that is multi-disciplinary and evokes environmental knowledge and concerns. Exposure to cutting-edge science, remote sensing, and tools for turning data into information for watershed health form a new tool set for many of the students and allow youth to find opportunities to be positive agents of change in the face of climate change. Santa Fe Award: \$20,000

**Upper Chama Soil and Water Conservation District** The Conservation Writing Workshops at Escalante Middle High School guide youth in finding a voice to express their experience of the outdoors and perspectives on vital conservation issues in the Chama Valley and Rio Arriba County. Through both outdoor and in-class learning, the workshops encourage students to become active, engaged community members. Based on their visits with local land stewards and their exploration of water and



ecological health on both public and private lands, students will develop a publishable essay over the course of the workshops. Tierra Amarilla Award: \$20,000

**Upper Gila Watershed Alliance (UGWA)** UGWA will partner to put on the Children's Water Festival (CWF) which is a unique multi day educational event for the fifth graders in Silver City, Lordsburg, and Cobre schools. It includes a full day of exploration at the Gila River, where students cycle through different learning stations. UGWA aims to create opportunities for young people to learn more about the watershed where they live and to use their new knowledge to create lasting solutions for pressing environmental issues. Gila Award: \$5,500

## 2022

[2022-OEF-AwardeesUPDATED.pdf \(newmexico.gov\)](#)

**Ciudad Soil and Water Conservation District (\$9,650.00, Sandoval):** This project will provide 100-125 Rio Rancho school students with an experiential hands-on program emphasizing place-based watershed education through local water resource agency presentations, a service learning project called the action project, and an immersive field trip to restore habitat by the Rio Grande under the RiverXchange® program. In addition, the implementation of emerging best practices in equity and environmental education through the RiverXchange® teacher training, program partner meetups, and program development will more effectively support diverse youth in building meaningful and long-term connections to their local environment.

**Diné Introspective Incorporated (\$20,000.00, San Juan):** Diné outdoors provides Indigenous youth in the Four Corners region the opportunity to go rafting the San Juan River. Their Indigenous river guides teach youth to reclaim and revitalize their ancestral roots by visiting cultural sites, learning the importance of all life of the water, animals, and plants, and providing Indigenous knowledge in rafting, ancestral stories, and Diné language.

**Doña Ana Village Association (DAVA)(\$15,000.00, Doña Ana):** DAVA engage youth about the importance of the national historic trail through community outdoor activities that incorporate the village and the trail. This will include engaging youth in the planning of the outdoor space south of the village, in conjunction with our Rivers Trails Conservation Assistance Grant. DAVA will also continue its mural projects, community bike rides, walking tours of the village and restoration of historic acequias.

**Gila Resources Information Project (GRIP)/Silver City Watershed Keepers (SCWK) (\$15,600.00, Grant):** The Silver City Watershed Keepers Summer Camp provides an

underserved population of youth with an outdoor experience in their local watershed, public lands, and community to empower stewardship of their environment and cultural heritage. Three week-long summer day camps are planned for the summer of 2023, providing up to 60 youth (4-6 graders) with the skills to address issues of environmental protection, including climate change, and preservation of cultural history. Activities at the Gila River, Mimbres River and San Vicente Creek offer kids outdoor experiences and education related to protection of water resources and cultural sites.

**Heart of the Gila Inc.(\$13,989.00, Grant):** Heart of the Gila's Watershed Recreation and Education Program consists of our Mimbres River Watershed and Gila River Watershed Adventures. Our program provides fun, immersive, environmental education opportunities, focused on local streams, rivers, and watersheds. Including primary caretakers in this project allows for the continuity of meaningful outdoor experiences and can serve to create lasting relationships to wild places. Some teen youth who participate in these programs will be recruited for a Gila National Forest / Trails stewardship project and training.

**Hermit's Peak Watershed Alliance(\$20,000.00, San Miguel):** The Gallinas River is the source of life for Las Vegas. The Gallinas River Park, extending through the center of town, is an exceptionally rich outdoor space that is easily accessible to locals. It provides a safe corridor for year-round and migrating birds, as well as bountiful habitat for trout, offering wonderful opportunities for local youth to experience bird watching and fly fishing in their own backyard, inspiring stewardship and respect for the limited and precious water of the Gallinas River, the land that constitutes the Gallinas Watershed, and the cultural heritage of Las Vegas and surrounding areas.

**Localogy(\$20,000.00, Taos):** This camp connects youth in northern Taos County with the local foodshed, watershed, and resilient culture. It explores local farms, ranches, public spaces, acequias, streams, and wild places with community members as our guides. Campers become active stewards of vital systems through fun and engaging service learning.

**New Mexico School for the Arts(\$20,000.00, Santa Fe):** This program seeks to foster a deeper awareness and respect for the natural world amongst students through outdoor excursions, environmental education, and developing an outdoor classroom. The program includes a special focus on New Mexico waterways, fire's ecosystem role/impacts, cultural heritage, and the implications of climate change in the region.