

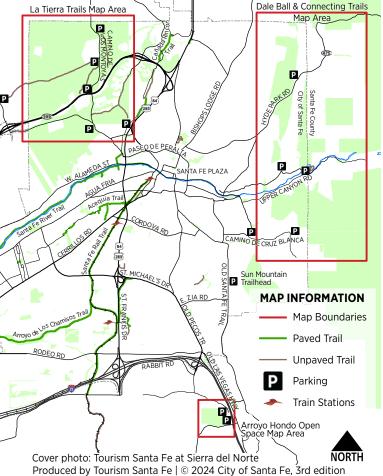
# @hall.of.the.wild Sangre de Cristo Mountains

### Sangre de Cristo Foothills

The Sangre de Cristo foothills vary in elevation from 6,940 to 9,121 feet and offer more than 60 miles of trails for the hiker, biker, and horseback rider, as well as provide a variety of habitats for plant and animal communities.

You'll notice the dominant piñon and juniper vegetation, which serves as protection and travel corridors for numerous wildlife species, including the cottontail rabbit, jackrabbit, burrowing owl, piñon jay, Steller's jay, coyote, bobcat, and mountain lion. Most mammals are active at night, so tracks and scat are often all we see of them. Birds and reptiles are active in the day, depending on the season. Some of the most ancient, drought-adapted habitats are microscopic, in bio-crusts woven together of many species.

The Sangre de Cristo foothills are located on the original homeland of the Tewa people, still referred to as *Ogha Po'oge* (White Shell Water Place).



### **Trail Safety Reminders & Recommendations**

- · Ride/hike the trails at your own risk.
- Help protect our fragile ecosystem by staying on designated trails.
- · Wear appropriate clothing and shoes.
- · Pack plenty of water, sunscreen, sunglasses, a hat, rain gear, and a first aid kit.
- Take it slowly, particularly if you are visiting from a lower altitude with higher humidity. Dehydration and altitude sickness can become serious, so rest often, hydrate, and enjoy the views.
- · Trails and parking lots are open dawn to dusk.
- Do not leave valuables in your vehicle at the parking lots.
- Be aware that the higher elevation Dale Ball and connecting trails can be icy in the winter and early spring; the lower elevation La Tierra and Arroyo Hondo trails can be hot in the summer.

### **Seasons & Conditions**

Santa Fe is a semiarid climate with four distinct seasons and 320+ days of sunshine.

**Spring:** average highs: low 70s; average lows: low 40s Variable daily temps, occasional wet weather, and rushing creeks.

Summer: average highs: high 80s; average lows: mid 50s Dry, sunshiney mornings, midday monsoons, and cool evenings.

**Autumn:** average highs: low 60s; average lows: mid 30s Bright sun, crisp air, and vibrant golden aspens and cottonwoods.

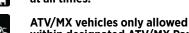
Winter: average highs: high 40s; average lows: mid 20s

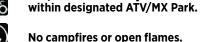
Mild, but true winter, with 6-8 snowfalls blanketing the hills.

### Trail Rules & Etiquette



Dogs must be kept on a leash at all times.







### **Contact Information**

Police non-emergency: 505.428.3710 City of Santa Fe Parks Division: 505.955.2106 City of Santa Fe Constituent Services: 505.955.6949 Santa Fe County Open Space, Trails & Parks Division: 505.992.9873 Ranger on call: 505.231.7435











With additional help from the Santa Fe Fat Tire Society, National Audubon Society and The Nature Conservancy.

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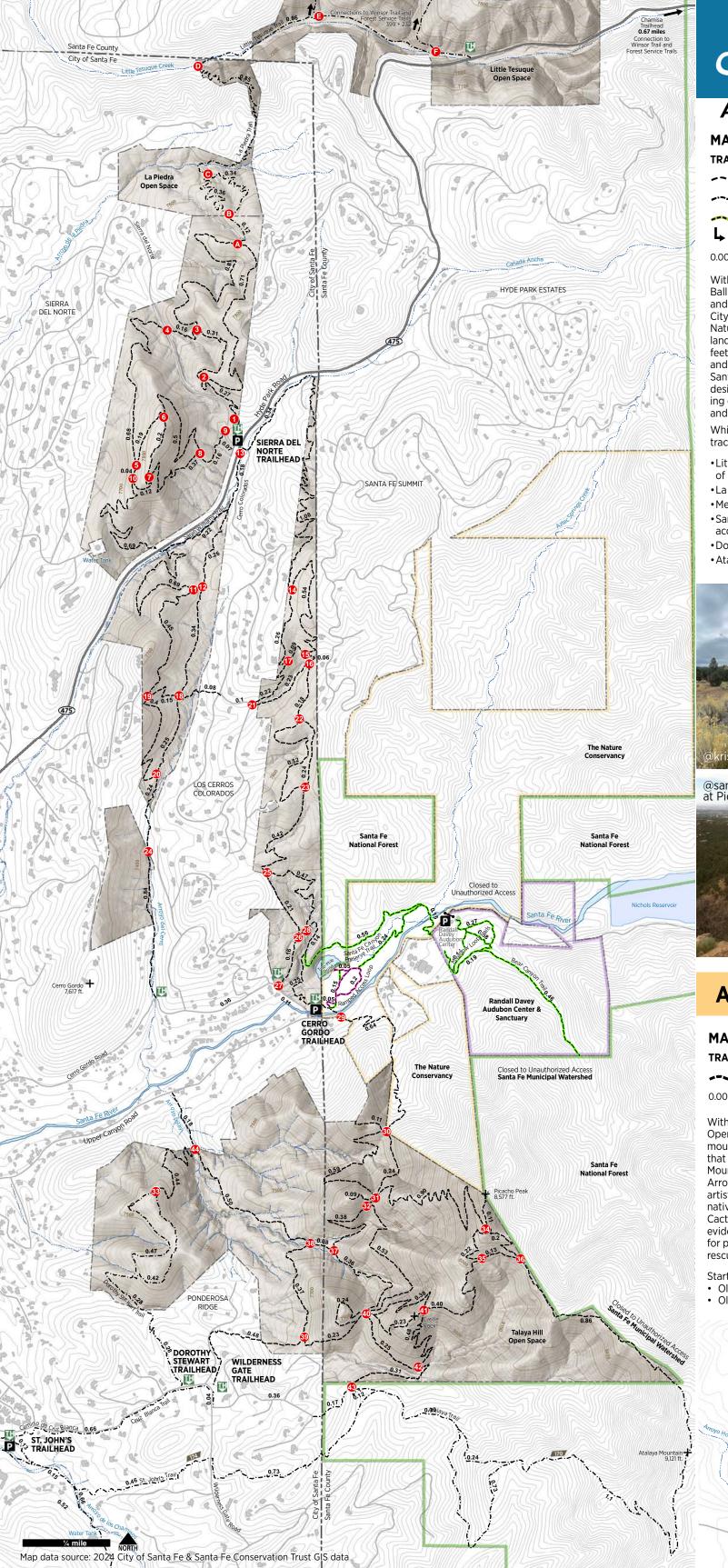
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TRAIL COURTESY

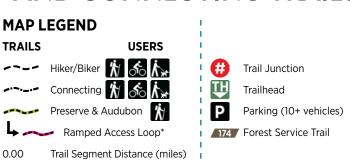
### Santa Fe Foothill Trails





## Dale Ball

### AND CONNECTING TRAILS



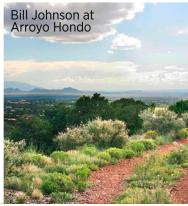
Within two miles of the historic Santa Fe Plaza, discover the Dale Ball Trail system and its connecting trails. Enjoy 36+ miles of hiking and mountain biking trails that extend across land owned by the City of Santa Fe, Santa Fe County, the National Forest Service, The Nature Conservancy, the National Audubon Society, and private landowners. With an elevation fluctuation of approximately 1,800 feet, expect panoramas of the Rio Grande Valley's mountain ranges and the Sangre de Cristo Mountains. The late Dale Ball, founder of Santa Fe Conservation Trust, was instrumental in the conception, design, and construction of the trails that bear his name, negotiating easements from private property owners to link portions of City and County land to devise a true system.

While the Dale Ball Trail system offers 23.75 miles of superb single track, don't miss the miles of equally excellent connecting trails:

- Little Tesuque Creek Trail 1.7 (connecting to an extensive network of trails in the 1.6 million-acre Santa Fe National Forest)
- •La Piedra Trail 1.6
- Meadow Loop Trails & Bear Canyon Trail 1.0
- Santa Fe Canyon Preserve Trail 1.4 (\*features a 0.4-mile ramped access loop)
- Dorothy Stewart Trail 1.6
- Atalaya Trail 5.4







### **ARROYO HONDO OPEN SPACE**

### **MAP LEGEND**

**TRAILS** 

**USERS** Multi-Use 1 50 1 1

Trailhead

Parking (10+ vehicles)

Within five miles of the historic Santa Fe Plaza, the Arroyo Hondo Open Space features approximately three miles of hiking, mountain biking, and equestrian trails (elevation range of 260 feet) that offer panoramic views of the Galisteo Basin, Cerrillos Hills, Ortiz Mountains, and the Arroyo Hondo. At the Old Las Vegas Highway/ Arroyo Hondo Road trailhead, study and take a picture of the artistic interpretive display to appreciate the wide diversity of 20 native plants you can find along the trail, including Scarlet Hedgehog Cactus and Coyote Willow. Also keep an eye out for a historic dam, evidenced from particular vista points. Once private land destined for parceling into residential lots, the Arroyo Hondo Open Space was rescued in favor of keeping the space an open public access area.

Start your adventure at one of two trailheads:

Trail Segment Distance (mi)

- Old Las Vegas Highway/Arroyo Hondo Road
- Old Agua Fria Road East

