

2021 Trail Report

Thank you for your continued support of the Paso del Norte Trail. We are excited to share an overview of our 2021 successes below. Together, we made a lot of progress in 2021 and we have much to look forward to in 2022!



ENGAGEMENT & OUTREACH

We hosted **more than 20 official events** last year including walking tours, bike rides, street audits, tree planting events, popup demonstrations, and cleanups. **141** volunteers provided nearly **300 hours of donated time** from **organizations including** Live Active El Paso, Rotary Club of El Paso, Eco El Paso, American Heart Association, Medical Center of the Americas, Texas Tech University, El Paso Electric, and Walmart. Trail volunteers **planted 115 trees** in 2021, **offsetting 1,415 pounds of CO2 in 2021** and **5,520 pounds of CO2 per year upon maturity**. On March 27th we hosted the **inaugural trail ride**, biking over **65 miles from Tornillo to Anthony** along the planned alignment of the Paso del Norte Trail. Our **social media** following continues to grow, adding 283 new Facebook likes and 300 new Instagram followers, and **reaching 41,840 people!**

TRAIL PLANNING

Our partners at **National Park Service, Medical Center of the Americas, and TxDOT** conducted engagement, outreach, and planning sessions for the **Paso del Norte Trail segment along the Franklin Canal from the El Paso Zoo to Clark Drive**. This segment received **formal support** from Representative Veronica Escobar and coordination is ongoing with El Paso Water Improvement District No. 1. The **City of Sunland Park Trails Master Plan** was adopted in **July 2021**. The **34-mile Paseo del Sol Trail** will span across the City of Sunland Park and **overlaps with multiple segments** of the Paso del Norte Trail's main alignment, spurs, and loops.



2021 Highlights

141 volunteers

300 hours of donated time

20 events

115 trees planted

41,840 people reached through social media

\$33.7 million applied for in funding



TRAIL COUNTERS

Our partners at [TxDOT](#) and [Texas Transportation Institute](#) provided [temporary trail counters](#), giving us our first insight into [actual usage data](#) along the [Playa Drain Trail](#) segment. The counters were active between [October 8th](#) and [October 28th](#). The Playa Drain Trailhead at [Ascarate Park](#) was the [busiest location](#), registering [1,587 users total](#) with an [average of 84 users per day](#). Check out the full [Trail Counter Report](#) for a detailed analysis of usage trends.

FUNDING REQUESTS

In 2021, we applied for more than [\\$33.7 million](#) of funding for trail programming, planning, design, and construction. In [October](#), the Texas Transportation Institute [approved nearly \\$5.7 million](#) in funding for [1.1 miles](#) of shared use path [along the Alamo Alto Drain in Fabens](#) and [1.3 miles](#) of shared use path [along the Alameda Alto Drain in Tornillo](#) ([View Map](#)). We received a [\\$12,500 grant](#) to develop a [Safe Routes to Parks Plan](#) and implement an early action to promote safety. We are still [awaiting decisions on nearly \\$23 million](#) in funding requests for [12.5 miles](#) of shared use path [between Ysleta and San Elizario](#) ([View Map](#)).

2021 TRAIL DEVELOPMENT

This [map](#) from the January 2022 Advisory Committee Meeting provides [detailed information on the following projects](#).

- El Paso County finished construction of the [O T Smith Trail in Tornillo](#), completing the project under budget and allowing a further extension across the train tracks to [Alameda Avenue](#).
- The City of El Paso began construction of the [0.85-mile Playa Drain Trail segment from Knights Drive to Yarbrough Drive](#).
- The City of El Paso resumed design for the [La Union Combined Lateral Trail](#), a [1.15-mile](#) shared use path that [overlaps with the Paso del Norte Trail – Ellis Lateral Spur](#) and [connects](#) directly to the 10.5-mile [River Park Trail](#).
- The City also resumed design on the [River Park Trail – Country Club Extension](#), which will fill the [0.30-mile](#) missing connection and directly connect more than 12 miles of trail along the Rio Grande River and Country Club Road.
- A [bicycle repair station and 4 shade structures](#) were purchased using the generous Legacy Donation from Karin Carson and were delivered to El Paso County Parks and Recreation in December 2021. We expect these to be [installed along the River Park Trail](#) in early 2022.



UPCOMING TRAIL DEVELOPMENT

In addition to all of the exciting developments in 2021, we also **established the framework** to significantly **expand and connect segments of the Paso del Norte Trail across the County**. Funding has been **allocated** for more than **5.1 miles of trail** between 2022 and 2025. The **entire 8.5-mile Playa Drain Trail** is on track to be **fully developed by 2024**. We are coordinating with the El Paso MPO and the City of El Paso to identify funding and prioritize development of the last remaining 0.3-mile segment of the Playa Drain Trail along Liberty Street. Check out this [interactive map](#) for a detailed explanation of the Playa Drain Trail's development timeline.

Become an official [Friend of the Paso del Norte Trail](#) to help us continue designing, constructing, and programming the trail!

OUR PARTNERS

