



Annual Report

Salida Mountain Trails is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that plans, builds and maintains singletrack around Salida, Colorado. EIN: 46-260898



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Meet Our Team

Letter from Executive Director

Friends of Salida Mountain Trails:

2023 was an incredible year of growth and progress for SMT. We added to our staff and board, built a new trail, completed 3,000 hours of maintenance (a new high!), and laid the groundwork for impactful projects coming in 2024 and beyond. We also kicked off a countywide trails and conservation plan that will result in even more world-class trail opportunities, all while protecting the land, water, wildlife and natural beauty that make Salida such a special place to live.

Ahead in this report, you'll find more specifics about the great work SMT's staff, board, and volunteers accomplished in 2023. I'll save some ink and let the following pages speak for themselves.

Suffice it to say that with 65 miles of trail—and counting—under SMT's stewardship, our small-but-mighty team has been hard at work keeping Salida's trails safe, sustainable and fun for everyone to enjoy.

As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, SMT's work is possible only because of the hundreds of members, donors, sponsors and advocates who support our mission. As you read through this report, I hope you'll be inspired to give to SMT. Above all though, I hope you get the chance to delight in and benefit from our amazing trail network.

I am tremendously proud of all that SMT achieved in the past year, and eager to build upon that success in the years ahead.

Happy Trails,

Jon Terbush
Executive Director, Salida Mountain Trails

Jon Terbush

Executive Director



Jon joined SMT in 2021 as the organization's first-ever staff, bringing 15+ years of experience in communications, public policy, and nonprofit development.

Cat Gruener

Trails Manager



Cat has been a Trail Professional since 2015. She has helped build and maintain hundreds of miles of trails, mostly in Colorado, but also in NW Arkansas and California.



Salida Mountain Trails Executive Team

■ Mike Smith, President

■ Ruthie Harper, Secretary

■ Travis Hochard, Vice
President

■ Richard Parker, Treasurer

Salida Mountain Trails Board

■ Hill Abell

■ Tim Ryan

■ Brian Bergeler

■ Zach Ryerson

■ Rachel Finkowski

■ Anna Ulrich

■ Shawn Gillis

■ Tom Wagner

■ Brinkley Messick

■ John Witherspoon

■ Kate Noelke

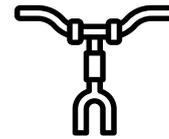


2023 HIGHLIGHTS

AT A GLANCE

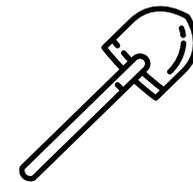


A Few Literal Tons of Rock Armoring Installed



345,000

Trips logged on SMT trails



2,870

Hours of Trail Maintenance



1,270

Hours of Volunteer Trail Work



3,730

hours of Additional Volunteer Time (Not Maintenance)

97

Volunteers Engaged in Trail Work

0.7

Miles of New Trail Built (Backside)

8

Miles of Trail Adopted (Rainbow Trail)

65

Miles of Trails Stewarded

2023 HIGHLIGHTS

AT A GLANCE



4,500 Pounds of Trash Removed from Burmac Trailhead

National Public Lands Day event with GARNA



79

New SMT Members in 2023 to a Total of 320



2

Trailhead Kiosks Installed



50

Pounds of Dog Poop Removed (F Street)

50

Rock Stairs Installed

5

Volunteer ShinDig Trail Work Events

3

Cornices Cleared on the Monarch Crest

35

Log Steps Prepped on Mt. Shavano





BANANA BELT
SEPT. 17TH, 2023
150 RIDERS

HIGHLIGHTS 2023



Trail Maintenance

In 2023, SMT logged a record-high 2,870 hours of trail work—up from 2,100 hours in 2022—across the 65 miles of trail we steward. Work ranged from routine maintenance, like clearing drains and repairing tread, to major restoration and improvement projects. A big reason we accomplished so much: We grew our Trail Manager role from a part- to full-time job!

Rock Armoring

Our trails are prone to erosion. So, in 2023, SMT rebuilt and armored parts of Frontside, Sand Dunes, and Unkle Nazty. The rock armoring will make each trail more resilient to future use. In the case of Sand Dunes and Unkle Nazty, the restoration also opened fun, optional lines for more advanced trail users.



New Trail

In October, SMT completed work on our newest trail: Backside. In partnership with the City of Salida, we received a \$35,000 grant to hire Salida's local youth corps, Southwest Conservation Corps, to work on this project. The new trail adds front-country capacity to a busy part of our trail network; reduces congestion and user conflict on nearby trails; provides a steep-yet-sustainable route runners have long asked for; and offers a direct, bike-free way to reach a scenic overlook in the Arkansas Hills.



HIGHLIGHTS 2023



Clean Up Events

In addition to working on trails, SMT stewards the surrounding land. In 2023, we led several clean-up events. In April, we removed 50+ pounds of dog poop from the F Street Trailhead. In May, we removed 12 bags of trash from the Burmac trailhead during the annual Clean Up Green Up.

Leave No Trace

In September, we educated the 7th grade class about Leave No Trace and led them in a clean-up event. And in October, for National Public Lands Day, we partnered with GARNA to remove 4,500 pounds of trash and ash from the Burmac Trailhead.



National Trails Day

For a second-straight year, SMT partnered with Central Colorado Mountain Riders, the U.S. Forest Service, and Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) for a volunteer event on National Trails Day in June. We recruited more than 50 volunteers to restore about 2 miles of trail, with volunteers contributing more than \$10,000 of value to public lands in a single day. SMT also co-adopted 8 miles of the Rainbow Trail with CCMR, raising to 65 miles the amount of trail we manage.



HIGHLIGHTS 2023



Volunteer Engagement

Volunteers logged 1,270 hours of trail work this year—a big jump from the 1,004 hours logged in 2022. This included work by volunteer Trail Stewards—who receive training and adopt trails to work on in their free time—as well as work by 97 volunteers who participated in 5 ShinDig Trail Work Day projects.

Expanding Our Stewardship Scope

As SMT has grown, we've taken on an expanded stewardship scope. In July, we partnered with Colorado Fourteeners Initiative (CFI) to prep about 35 log steps on the Mount Shavano summit trail. Also in July, we joined CCMR to clear cornices on the Monarch Crest. Finally, we partnered with GARNA and the Chaffee Rec Adopters to begin monitoring trail and trailhead conditions around the county.



Burmac

In Summer 2023, SMT began work with the BLM to overhaul and improve the Burmac Trailhead. This massive project will involve establishing campsites, installing vault toilets, redesigning the parking lot, rerouting Race Track for sustainability and user experience, and more. Work will begin this year.



HIGHLIGHTS 2023



Events & Programming

We love events that bring people together around a shared love of trails. In June, we brought back the FIBike Mountain Bike Race after a few-years' hiatus. And in September, for the second-straight year we organized the Banana Belt MTB Race, growing participation by 50% from the year prior.

Events & Programming

We also supported many trail events throughout the year, including the Run Through Time, Salida Enduro Series, Vapor Trail and Methodist Mountain Ultra.



Trails & Conservation Plan

SMT is one of five coalition members leading the development of the Chaffee County Trails System and Conservation Plan (TSCP). The plan will identify opportunities for trail improvements and new routes, alongside projects to protect and enhance natural resources. In 2023, we received \$120,000 from two major grants to fund the project, hired a consulting team, and held our first meetings.



HIGHLIGHTS 2023



Youth Engagement

As we've done for several years now, SMT hosted Salida Racing for a day of education and trail work on Little Rainbow and Solstice. And in October, we hosted our first-ever Take a Kid Mountain Biking Day event.



SALIDA RACING TEAM TRAIL DAY





**POT - O - GOLD
SHINDIG TRAIL
WORK DAY
AUG. 26TH**

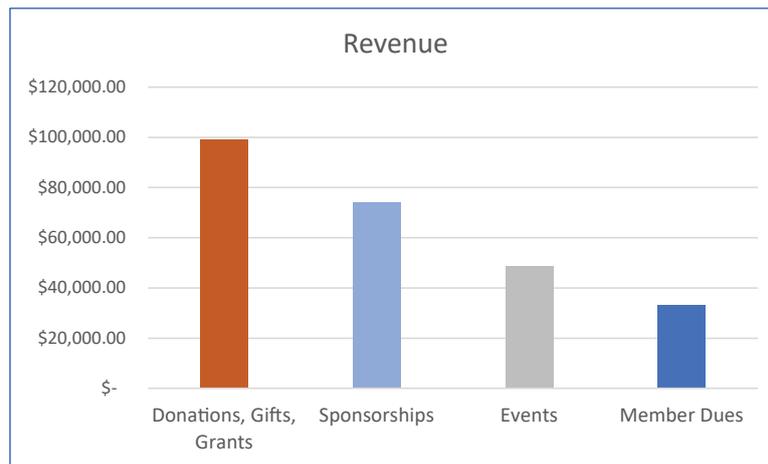
Financials

Revenue Sources

2023

Revenue

Individual Donations, Gifts, Grants, Other	\$99,106.41
Sponsorships	\$73,896.35
Fundraisers & Events	\$48,709.87
Membership Dues	\$33,020.31
Total Revenue	\$254,732.94*



■ 39%

Individual Donations, Gifts, Grants and Other

■ 29%

Sponsorships

■ 19%

Fundraisers and Events

■ 13%

Membership Dues

***Grants that went to the following projects are not reflected in the revenue total above. SMT obtained the funds in partnership with other organizations.**

Trails plan

CPW Non-motorized Trails Grant - \$45,000

Common Ground – \$70,000 (over 2 years)

Backside Trail

Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) and Colorado Youth Corps Association (CYCA) – \$34,700



Financials

Expenses

2023

Expenses

Trail Planning, Building, & Maintenance	\$94,083.54
Management & General Admin	\$92,917.76
Fundraisers & Events	\$26,509.75
Total Expenses	\$213,511.05



■ **44%**
Trail Planning, Building & Maintenance

■ **44%**
Management & General Administration

■ **12%**
Fundraisers and Events



MEMBER PARTY

OCT. 17TH, 2023

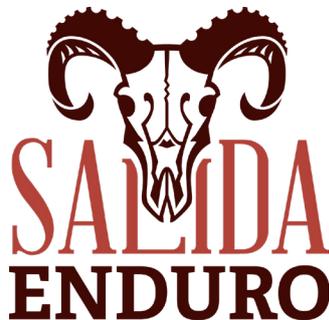
**FUN STREET
FAMILY ARCADE**



Thank you to all of our Sponsors!



Trailblazer



TEAM EVERGREEN
CYCLING

Thank you to all of our Sponsors!



Sustaining



Thank you to all of our Sponsors!



Gold



Silver



Bronze



2024 Goals

Building upon all our success in 2023, in 2024 SMT plans to:

- * Build a new trail, making official a longstanding user-created route.
- * Develop a bike park at the base of S Mountain for kids and beginners to develop skills, and for riders of all ages to have fun.
- * Reroute fall-line parts of Dream On to improve user experience, minimize erosion, and reduce future maintenance needs.
- * Reroute and improve Race Track to enhance user experience, increase sustainability, and return the trail to its intended green/beginner-friendly rating.
- * Log more than 3,080 hours of trail maintenance (a 10% increase YOY).
- * Train 5-6 new Crew Leads, and 10+ Trail Stewards, to grow our trail work capacity.
- * Host 6 monthly ShinDigs (large-scale volunteer events), including a big project on National Trails Day.
- * Transform the Burmac Trailhead into a safe, clean and inviting hub for the Methodist Mountain Trails.
- * Adopt 5.2 miles of the iconic Monarch Crest, and lead a volunteer project there.
- * Advance the Chaffee County Trails System and Conservation Plan, identifying a list of "Top 10" critical needs and opportunities by Fall 2024.



And much, much more...

THE END

