



Annual Report

Salida Mountain Trails (SMT) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit whose mission is to build and maintain sustainable, multi-use trails; steward public lands; and promote a vibrant trail community.

Today, we manage 70 miles of singletrack spread across two trail systems close to town—Arkansas Hills and Methodist Mountain—as well as part of the iconic Monarch Crest.



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Meet Our Team

Letter from our Executive Director

Dear Friends,

Salida Mountain Trails has come a long way since its inception two decades ago. What began as a vision for a few trails close to town has grown into a dynamic nonprofit whose work is integral to our community's well-being and way of life.

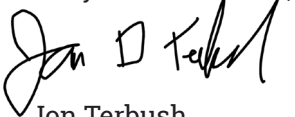
This evolution was evident in SMT's accomplishments last year. We continued to expand our stewardship scope, adopting 5 miles of the iconic Monarch Crest; broke ground on a bike skills park, providing a new type of amenity long desired in Salida; and kicked off a community-driven plan to guide the future of trail development and management in Chaffee County. We even updated our mission statement to better reflect the full range of SMT's work and goals.

More transformative changes are on the horizon. In 2025, SMT is launching Salida Youth Cycling, a new program to teach mountain bike skills to grade-school kids. We're also developing a Strategic Plan—the first in SMT's history—to chart a course toward a stronger and healthier organization. And, because trail stewardship remains our core work, we're for the first time bringing on a seasonal Trail Crew Lead to complement our Trail Manager, giving us capacity to do more for trails and public lands.

As SMT enters its third decade, I am incredibly excited about the opportunities ahead for the organization to continue to grow, improve, and deliver on its mission. The future may be uncertain, but SMT remains committed to caring for our shared, treasured public lands.

As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, SMT's work is possible thanks to the hundreds of members, donors, sponsors and advocates who support our mission. Thank you for your support. We couldn't do this without you.

See you on the 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

■ Zach Ryerson

■ Brian Bergeler

■ Anna Ulrich

■ Rachel Finkowski

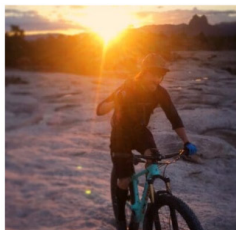
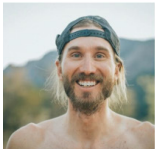
■ Tom Wagner

■ Jeff Howard

■ John Witherspoon

■ Brinkley Messick

■ Jon Taiber



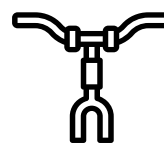
2024 HIGHLIGHTS

AT A GLANCE



17%

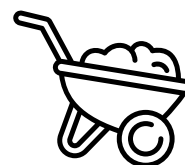
Increase in trail use at F street 2024 vs. 2023



405,187

Trips logged on SMT trails

45,000 Trips at the new skills park in the first 3 months



1,500

Hours of volunteer work on public lands

5.2

Miles of trail adopted (Monarch Crest)

4,335

Feet of trail reroute + rehab (Race Track)

900

Feet of trail connector built (Dead Bird to RaceTrack)

3,868

Feet of new trail (Maybe)



5,322

hours of additional volunteer time (admin, events, etc.) which equates to a value of \$178,234

2024 HIGHLIGHTS

AT A GLANCE



Burmac trailhead transformation underway

73

Volunteers engaged during 4 public clean up events

5

Volunteer trail work days (engaging 102 volunteers)

1,000

Pounds of trash cleaned up (Arkansas Hills)

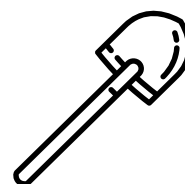
3

Dog waste stations installed



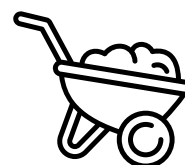
87

New SMT members in 2024 to a total of 452



3,300

Hours of trail maintenance (up from 2,800 in 2023)



\$50,235

Value of volunteer work on public lands



100

Pounds of dog waste removed



BANANA BELT
SEPT. 15TH, 2024
FIRST YEAR BACK
ON METHODIST
MOUNTAIN SINCE
2019

HIGHLIGHTS 2024



Trail Maintenance

In 2024, SMT logged a record-high 3,300 hours of trail work—up from 2,870 hours in 2023—across the 70 miles of trail we steward. Work ranged from routine maintenance, like clearing drains and repairing tread, to bigger improvement projects, like removing deep ruts on Gutz and renovating Frontside.

Trail Restoration

Our trails are prone to erosion due to loose soil, minimal moisture, and high use. As a result, Frontside degraded over time from a relatively smooth intermediate trail to one with awkward protrusions. So, SMT tactically removed or buried big rocks to restore the trail's intended character and make it function better as the main entry point to the Arkansas Hills Trails.



Bike Skills Park

Fulfilling a longtime vision, in December we opened the first phase of the new Salida Bike Skills Park. The park's goal is to support progressive skills development, particularly among kids and beginner mountain bikers. The park got nearly 10,000 uses in the first three weeks of being open—despite December weather—proving that there is enormous demand. This year, SMT aims to optimize the current footprint, and obtain funding to complete the full vision for this unique amenity.



HIGHLIGHTS 2024



Trail Improvement

Way back in 2017, the Bureau of Land Management recommended rerouting large parts of Race Track to improve sustainability and accessibility. When the BLM in 2024 began overhauling the Burmac Trailhead, we decided the time was right to finally make those changes. SMT hired a pro trail builder (James Flatten, Original Flow Farmer) to revamp the trail and to close/rehab decommissioned parts.

Conservation

SMT's mission goes beyond trails to include conservation and public land stewardship. In 2024, we led 73 volunteers in 2 big clean ups, removing more than 1,000 pounds of trash and 100 pounds of dog poop from the Arkansas Hills. We also partnered with the Salida Middle School for two "Leave No Trace" clean-up days with their students.



National Trails Day

Continuing an annual tradition, we partnered with Central Colorado Mountain Riders (CCMR) on National Trails Day to bring together motorized and non-motorized trail users. SMT concentrated our efforts on Sun Up, fixing and improving over a dozen drains and improving the trail tread, while CCMR focused on building the Porter Gulch Trail. Chaffee Rec Adopters also joined us this year, leading volunteers in a trash clean up, before we all regrouped for lunch.



HIGHLIGHTS 2024



Volunteer Engagement

Volunteers logged 1,500 hours of trail work in 2024—roughly a 50% increase since 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 projects. A big shoutout to the Salida Enduro Trail Crew, who helped us prep trails ahead of the spring and fall events!

New Trail Construction

In 2022, a landowner closed access to part of a historical social trail that crossed his property. Working with the Bureau of Land Management and City of Salida, SMT plotted a reroute to keep the trail on only public land and make it an official part of the SMT network. In April 2024, we opened the new route, calling it “Maybe” in homage to one of the social trail’s original names.



Monarch Crest

As SMT has grown, we’ve taken on an expanded stewardship scope. After co-adopting 8 miles of the Rainbow Trail with CCMR in 2023, in 2024 SMT adopted 5.2 miles of the world-renowned Monarch Crest, from Monarch Pass to South Fooses. We are honored and thrilled to steward this section of iconic singletrack, in partnership with the Colorado Trail Foundation (CTF).



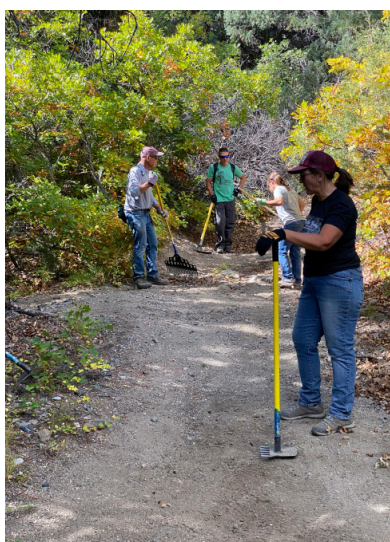


Events & Programming

We love events that bring people together around a shared love of trails. In June, we held our second FIBike Race during the FIBArk festival. And in September, we returned the Banana Belt to its classic location on Methodist Mountain after a 5-year hiatus due to the Decker Fire.

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 a leading partner developing the Chaffee County Trails and Conservation Plan, a long-range community visioning effort involving dozens of stakeholders. After obtaining two big grants in 2023, we kicked off this ambitious project in early 2024. We hit several key milestones—including the first public feedback period, which brought in more than 3,600 comments—and are on track to complete the plan in 2025.



Burmac Trailhead Transformation

In 2024, SMT began work with the BLM to overhaul and improve the Burmac Trailhead. Tied to the BLM's camping plan for Chaffee County, the project involves designating campsites to replace free-for-all camping, installing fire rings, completing trail and trailhead improvements, right-sizing the parking lot, and creating a sustainable bathroom solution. We are on track to complete this project in 2025 thanks to a major grant from Colorado Parks and Wildlife.





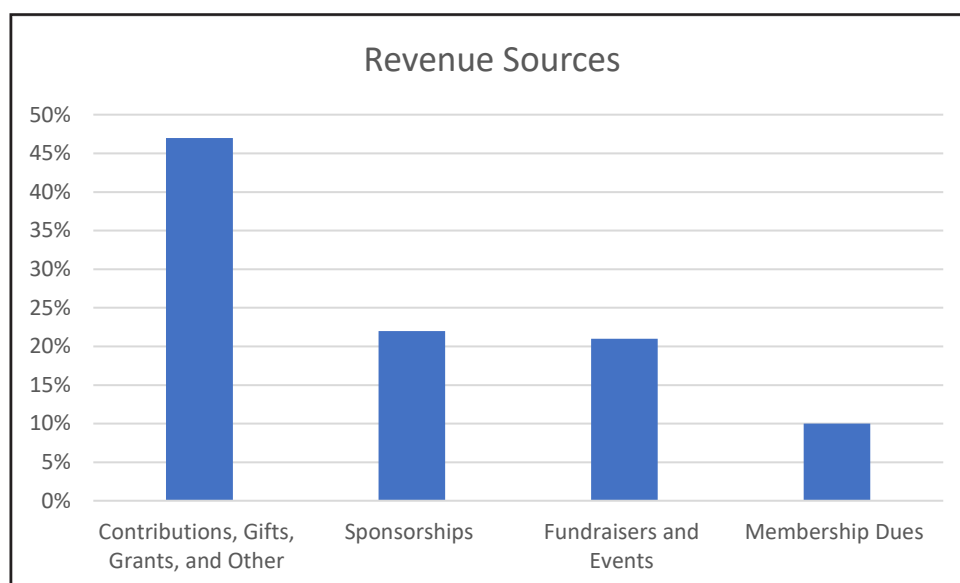
RACE TRACK SHINDIG MAY 2024



Financials

Revenue Sources

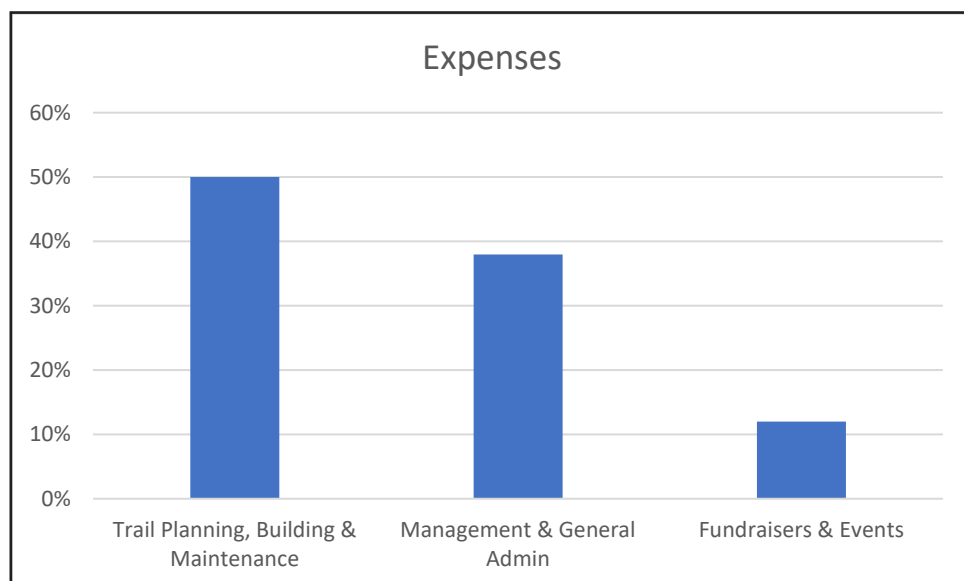
Revenue	Amount
Contributions, Gifts, Grants and Other	\$136,582.28
Sponsorships	\$63,530.09
Fundraisers & Events	\$59,889.02
Membership Dues	\$29,945.69
TOTAL	\$289,947.08



Financials

Expenses

Expenses	Amount
Trail Planning, Building, & Maintenance	\$141,691.09
Management & General Administration	\$108,866.48
Fundraisers & Events	\$32,760.40
TOTAL	\$283,317.97





SALIDA RACING TRAIL WORK DAY SEPTEMBER 2024



Thank you to all of our Sponsors!



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CAMELBAK®



SALIDA
MOUNTAIN
SPORTS



Soulcraft
BREWING
Salida, CO



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Sustaining



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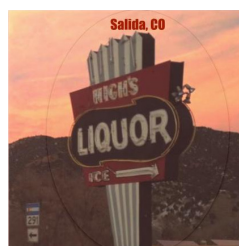
Gold



Silver



Bronze



2025 Goals

Building upon our success in 2024, in 2025 SMT plans to:

- Hire a full-time, seasonal Trail Crew Lead to complement our Trail Manager.
- Develop a Strategic Plan—the first in SMT’s history—to guide our organization into the future.
- Finalize the Chaffee County Trails and Conservation Plan, which will steer the future of trail management and development around Salida.
- Obtain grant funds to complete Phase 2 of the Bike Skills Park.
- Teach mountain bike skills to 180 local kids through our new Salida Youth Cycling program.
- Log more than 4,400 hours of trail maintenance (a 33% increase YOY).
- Complete the Burmac Trailhead Transformation, turning the trailhead into an inviting hub for the Methodist Mountain Trails.
- Train 2-3 new Crew Leads and at least 5 new Trail Stewards, to grow our trail work capacity.
- Lead 6 monthly ShinDigs (large-scale volunteer events), including a big project on National Trails Day.
- Host 2-3 major clean-up events to remove trash and dog poop from public lands.
- Partner with Buena Vista Singletrack Coalition (BVSC) to complete a long-awaited reroute of the Midland Trail.

...And much more!

THE END

