

Guiding Principles of Trail Building and Maintenance

Trails Alliance of Santa Fe

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In order to guide our design and maintenance projects, we utilize these principles.

First and foremost, we work for:

1. **Sustainability.** We build and maintain trails with current best-practices to ensure long-term enjoyment with the least amount of repairs.

In addition, and with consideration for the character and use of each trail, we strive to balance the following objectives:

2. **Multi-Use.** We understand that our trails must appeal to a wide range of users and experience levels. Unless specifically designated (e.g. the bike flow trail), all trails are multi-use and must be appropriate for maximum enjoyment.
3. **Safety.** We make every effort to provide trails that meet our goals while being free from unnecessary hazards.
4. **Scenic.** We endeavor to provide natural looking, flowing trails that encompass and enhance the beauty of our area.
5. **Fun.** We want everyone to enjoy the outdoors and get healthy exercise. Fun is critical but subjective. We understand that one person's fun is another person's terror.

Experience Zones

Where possible, we will use IMBA's guidelines for experience zones (or 'stacked loop trail systems')

Green: closest to parking lots; easier and flowing trails

Blue: farther from trail heads; medium difficulty and hybrid challenges

Black: farthest from entry points; most technical trails. These may be signed as such (as in La Tierra).