

2023 ANNUAL REPORT



GETTING TO WORK TO MAKE THE TRAILS WORK



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Left: Trail tread and drainage repairs are made on Skull Canyon Trail at Lake Pueblo State Park

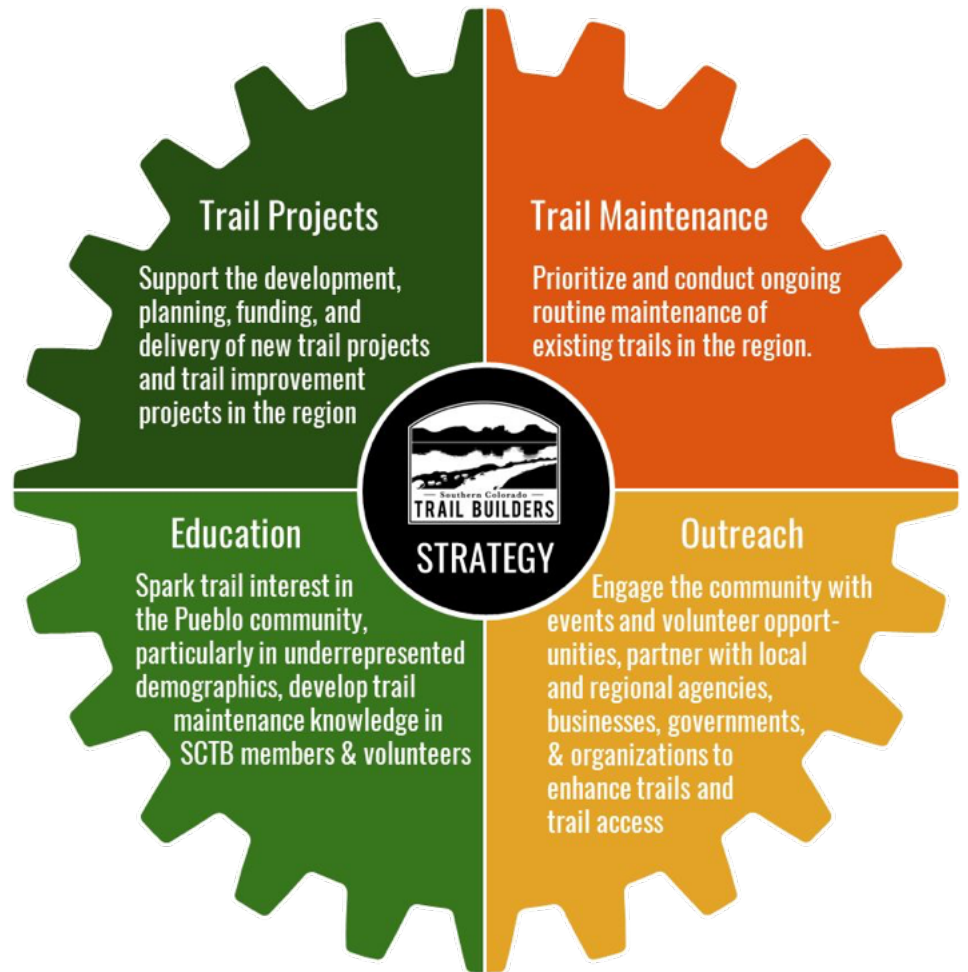
Cover: A rider drops in on Hooters Canyon Trail at Lake Pueblo State Park



Who We Are

Through trail stewardship, volunteerism, education, and community engagement, we are working towards a strong future for trail-based recreation in Southern Colorado

WHAT WE'RE ABOUT



Mission: We strive to build and maintain sustainable trails, engage the community, and foster relationships to support a healthy Southern Colorado.

Vision: A Southern Colorado with sustainably developed and managed trail resources aligned with the the evolving needs of the region's population and stakeholders.



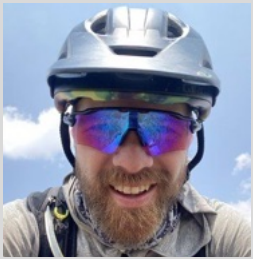
2023 Leadership

Southern Colorado Trail Builders is run by a committed volunteer board of directors.



PRESIDENT - GIGOT HUDSPETH

I'm a fifth generation Southern Colorado native; and I've been a fan of trail riding since I bought my first StumpJumper in 1983. The trails in Pueblo and surrounding vicinity are tremendous assets for our community. I'm passionate about exploring and promoting our outdoor resources.



VICE PRESIDENT - MIKE MCHENRY

The outdoor recreation opportunities - particularly our trail systems and the amazing climate - drew me to the Pueblo area. I believe SCTB is making a significant difference in the community and the local economy by advocating for, maintaining, and promoting our trails. My professional background is in geotechnical engineering, business management, and landscaping.



MEMBERSHIP CHAIR - ADAM DAVIDSON

Spending time on trails transformed my life. I hope I can share every bit of the benefits I've experienced. I want to use my experience and passion to encourage our Southern Colorado community to get outside when they can, to make the most of where we are and to enjoy the time we have.



TREASURER - ROBERT MURPHY

Access to public lands, quality trails, and a welcoming trail community are critical for Pueblo's youth to have positive experiences that will develop into lifelong passions. I've worked as a raft guide, ski instructor, bike mechanic, and professionally as a soil scientist on land management and environmental protection issues with various state and federal agencies across the western US.



SECRETARY- MAGGIE REICHEL

I have had many wonderful rides laughing down Hooters Too and enjoying the trails at Lake Pueblo. Since getting plugged in with the SCTB I am excited to make a contribution to our region's trails to leave this special corner of the state better than I found it. I have a background in event planning and marketing, specifically in the natural foods and outdoor industries.

SCTB Women's MTB Clinic

In May, SCTB hosted a Women's MTB clinic, furthering our mission to educate trail users and empower an underrepresented demographic in mountain biking



28
attendees

SCTB partnered with GRIT Clinics and their world renowned coaches, led by Lindsey Richter to host a first of its kind event for our region at Lake Pueblo State Park.

The one day event included skill building drills and on-trail education for a range of different skill levels. Lunch and an end of day happy hour kept participants well fueled throughout the day.

With funds raised from community donations and sponsorship, SCTB provided six scholarships.

The event attracted locals and visitors with ages ranging from 19 to 79.

Thank you to Sam Acar (@spiffysam) for documenting the day with your incredible photography skills!

SCTB Women's MTB Clinic

More photos from an amazing day on the trails



“It was an honor to be welcomed by this eager community of mountain bikers and trail builders and witness how dedicated they are to growing the mountain bike scene in Pueblo.

Because of their passion and knowledge of events, they made it so easy for us to bring our crew and do what we do best, teach mountain biking and help people fall more in love with the lifestyle! On behalf of me and our coaches, there was a magic in the air that day as we saw women light up with accomplishment and express how their lives are changing thanks to the bike, the community and their newfound belief in themselves. Thank you for having us, we have fallen in love with what you have going on here in Pueblo, keep it up!”

– Lindsey Richter, Founder and Director of Inspiration Ladies AllRide / Co-owner Grit Clinics MTB Skills.



Southern Colorado Trails Bash

For the eighth consecutive year, SCTB hosted our annual Trails Bash event in the spring to bring the community together and promote trails and outdoor recreation



Our annual trail celebration!

- Hikes, trail runs, and mountain bike rides
- A trail based scavenger hunt
- Games and giveaways
- Wood-fired pizza from our friends at Stoke



National Get Outdoors Day

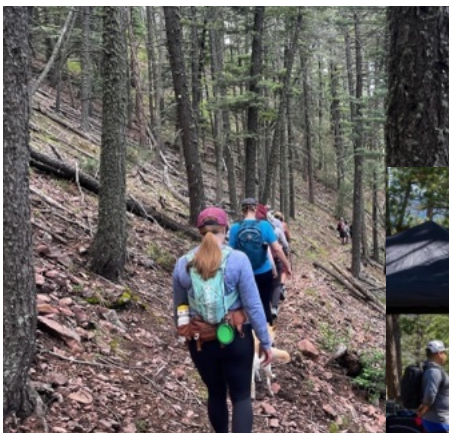
With sponsors of our Carhart Trail work, San Isabel Electric Association, Basin Electric Power Co-Op and Tri-State, SCTB celebrated National Get Outdoors Day



The event was held at the Pueblo Mountain Park with family friendly activities that included:

- Historical presentation on Arthur Carhart
- Guided group bike rides
- Ranger-led group hikes
- Birds of prey presentation
- Interactive educational booths
- Yard games
- Raffle prizes

70+ attendees



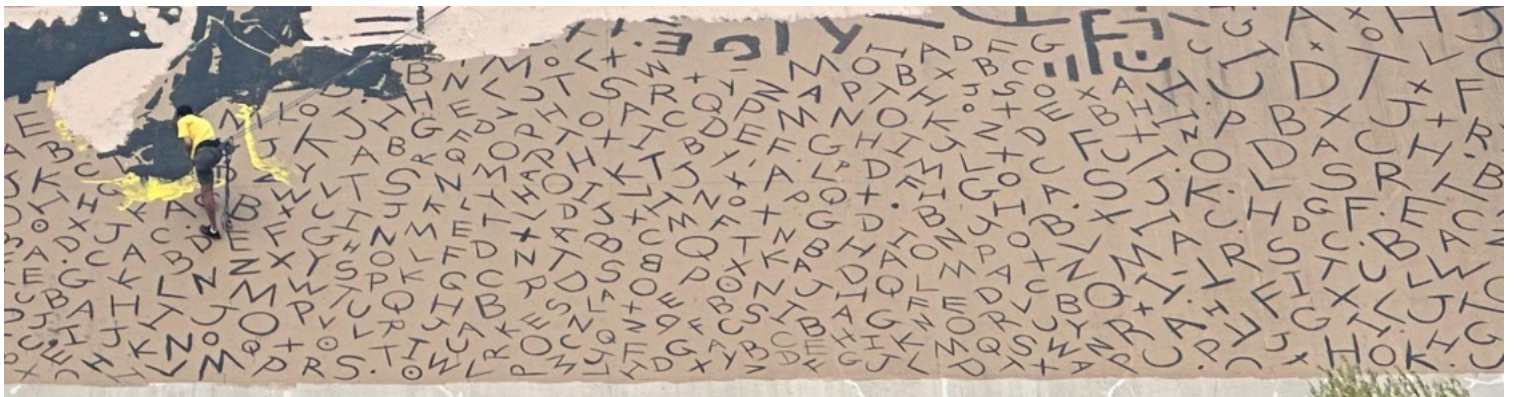
Arkansas River Levee Mural

SCTB commissioned a mural on the Arkansas River Levee to increase our presence in the community and contribute to this historical Pueblo landmark.



SCTB partnered with well-known Colorado mural artist Dan Levinson to create a trail recreation themed mural along Pueblo's famous Arkansas River Levee.

The mural features stylized renditions of a hiking boot, the silhouette of bluffs at Lake Pueblo State Park, and a mountain bike alongside native local terrain and vegetation. Dan generously donated \$3,000 of his time and materials to the total cost of the project.



Dan Levinson, beginning the mural painting this past summer

Trail Crew Leader Program

SCTB rolled out a new Trail Crew Leader program in 2023 to prepare us to lead a growing number of volunteer trail workers and conduct trail work more efficiently.

SCTB's new crew leader program aims to identify, train, and equip volunteer Trail Crew Leaders for the future in an effort to improve our trail maintenance activities, professionalize our volunteer model, and be able to utilize more volunteers effectively across our trail maintenance responsibilities.

In rolling this program out in 2023, SCTB sent four members to the Rocky Mountain Field Institute's Trail Crew Leader Training in Colorado Springs over two days in May. SCTB also funded new Crew Leader packs and equipment for use on future trail work days. As our volunteer numbers continue to grow, these committed leaders will allow us to work more effectively while growing our organization's trail work skills and knowledge.



Volunteer Trail Work - By the Numbers

Starting in 2022, SCTB launched a monthly “Second Sunday” work day model, increasing the number of regular work days and simplifying volunteer scheduling

95 Volunteer Hours Planning, Coordinating

+

620 Volunteer Trail Work Hours

=

\$22,530

**Volunteer contribution to our
region’s trails in 2023!**



Lake Pueblo Trail Maintenance and Improvements

2023 Trail Work at LPSP

In addition to routine trail maintenance such as trimming and small erosion/tread repairs, SCTB completed key trail improvements at Lake Pueblo State Park including:

- Completion of new sign/post installation (over 100 new signs)
- Sustainability and drainage improvements to Conduit Trail near the Water Tower road.
- South Shore trail tread repair following a large fallen boulder
- Short reroute of Skull Canyon Trail to improve sustainability
- South Shore armoring at Boggs Creek crossing
- Restoration of various closed, unsustainable, or rogue/social trail segments.



New Signage at Lake Pueblo Trails

In 2023, SCTB completed the installation of over 100 new wayfinding signs and posts throughout the South Shore trail network at Lake Pueblo State Park



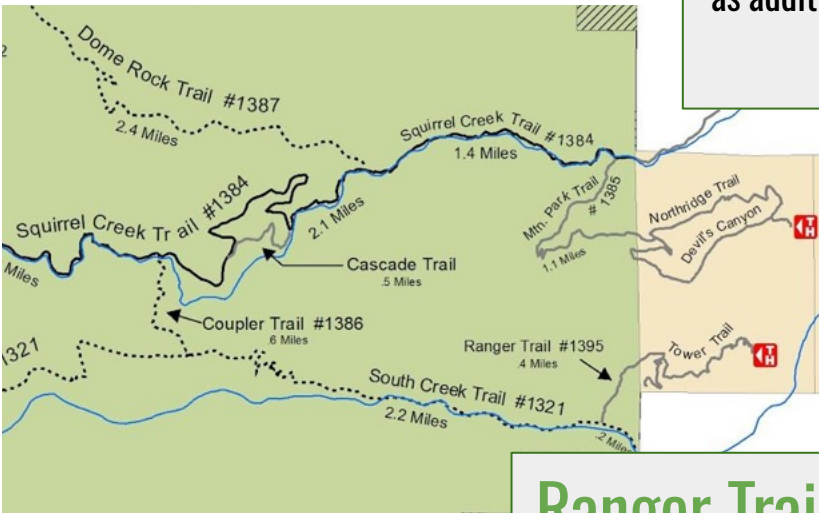
Wet Mountain Trail System

SCTB launched efforts to improve trail quality, access, and connectivity in the Wet Mountains in the area surrounding the Pueblo Mountain Park.



Volunteer Agreement with USFS

After meeting with USFS in 2022 to discuss partnership opportunities, SCTB signed a 2023 volunteer agreement with USFS to conduct trail maintenance in the Wet Mountain region. For 2023, this included two trail maintenance work days on the South Creek Trail. A 2024 volunteer agreement is being arranged with USFS as well as additional volunteer trail work



Ranger Trail Assessment

The Ranger Trail provides key access to South Creek Trail from the Pueblo Mountain Park and is one of the oldest USFS trails in the region dating back to the early 1900s and includes a portion on NWDC/Mountain Park land in addition to USFS. In 2023, SCTB conducted a current trail condition assessment of the Ranger Trail much of which is an extremely steep and eroded fall-line trail. As part of this assessment, SCTB proposed a reroute of Ranger Trail to USFS to improve trail sustainability and access to South Creek and other nearby system trails (Coupler, Squirrel Creek, and Carhart).



South Creek Trail Gets Some Love

Supporting our vision for improved trail quality in the Wet Mountains, SCTB completed much needed trail maintenance on South Creek Trail in 2023



2 Miles of Backcountry Trail Maintenance

Under our volunteer agreement with USFS, SCTB completed much needed trail maintenance on South Creek trail. Work completed included:

- Two short reroutes to move the trail tread onto more sustainable grade and eliminate rutting
- Approximately 50 drainage nics installed to improve drainage off the trail tread
- Approximately two miles of corridor clearing trimming branches and vegetation
- Reestablishment of trail tread through three blowdown areas



USFS supported this work ahead of our work days, dispatching a sawyer crew to clear three large blowdowns from storms in the previous years.

Clearing these fallen trees and opening the corridor up has dramatically improved the condition and user experience on the trail.

In total, SCTB contributed over 125 volunteer hours to this project in 2023 with plans to exceed those hours on our 2024 USFS volunteer agreement.



SCTB awarded \$20,000 Grant from Robert Hoag Rawlings Foundation



Investing in SCTB's Trail Work Capacity

In 2023, SCTB applied for and was awarded a \$20,000 grant from the Robert Hoag Rawlings Foundation to support the purchase of new trail tools and equipment. Funds are being used to purchase tools and equipment that will improve SCTB's trail work capabilities and volunteer efficiency specifically that will allow us to better manage and equip our growing number of volunteers.

This grant represents the largest single financial contribution in our organization's history and serves as a significant investment in the future of our region's trails! Thank you to the Rawlings Foundation!

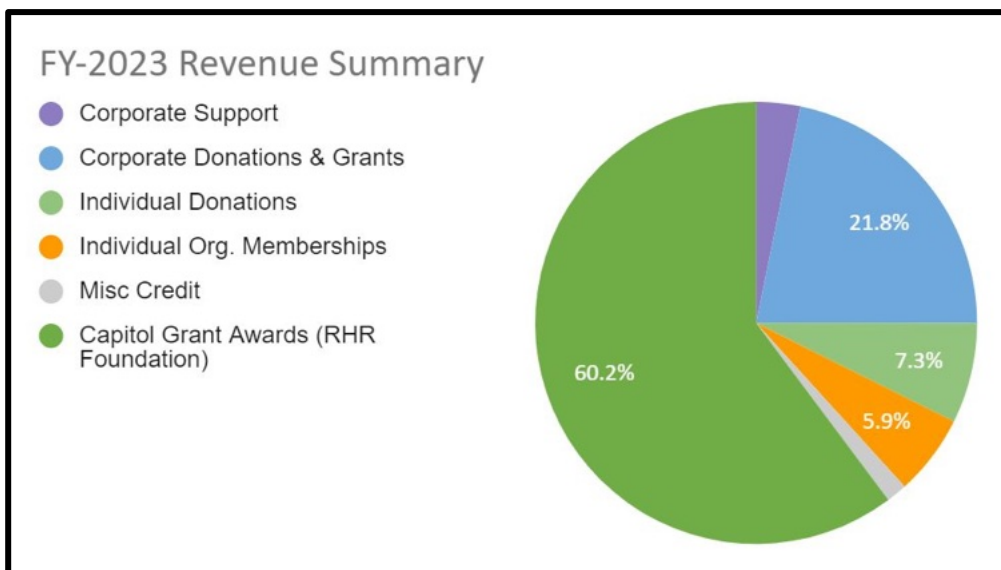
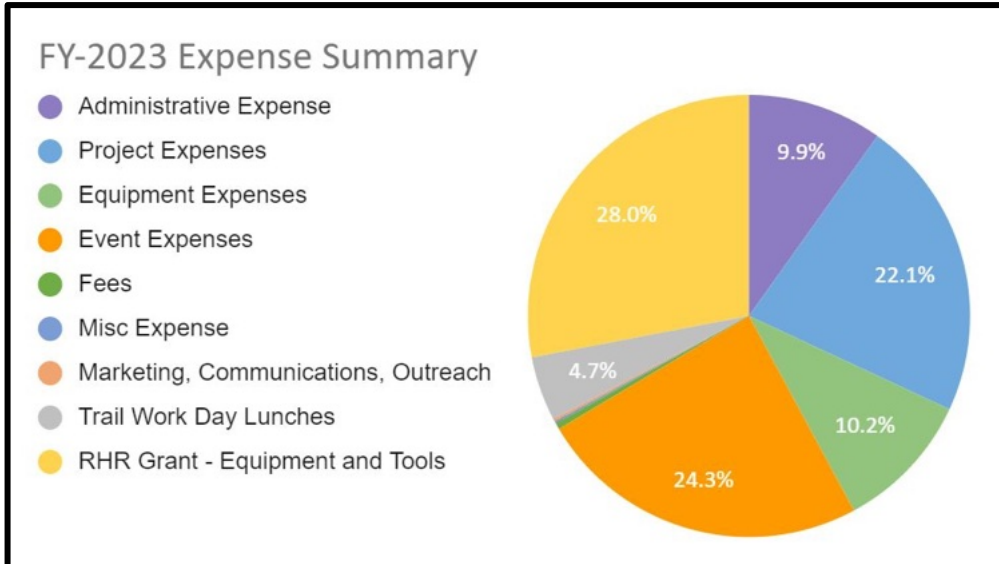
Highlights of tools and equipment that have been procured include:

- A cargo e-bike and trailer to improve our tool and supply hauling capabilities to and from trail worksites
- An SCTB branded tool and event utility trailer to more efficiently transport tools and provide better org presence at all events.
- Augmented power tools including a cordless rotary hammer, cordless chainsaw, drill, and angle grinder.
- Augmented trail tools including fire rakes, post hole diggers, crosscut saws, paleo picks, chisels, and a rock net.
- Trail Crew Leader program supplies including crew leader packs, safety equipment, and packable hand tools.
- A dedicated safety/protective equipment rolling bin for all work days

Financials at a Glance

As a volunteer run organization, SCTB is dedicated to being a good steward of the trails as well as the donor and grantor funds making our work possible.

Total Expenses
\$16,334.35



Total Revenue
\$33,218.39

*Includes \$20,000.00 capital grant from RHR Foundation



Our Land Manager Partners

Great trails are only possible because of great public land managers. SCTB works with local, state, and federal land managers to promote our mission.

Lake Pueblo
State Park



— BUREAU OF —
RECLAMATION

Pueblo Mountain
Park and River
Campus



NATURE
& WILDLIFE
DISCOVERY
CENTER



Pike San
Isabel
National
Forest



Thank you for your
continued support!

Support Trails in Southern Colorado

There are many ways to support SCTB's actions to develop and improve our region's trails

Join

Your recurring membership dollars provide direct support to our annual operating costs such as liability insurance, technology, promotional materials, and tool maintenance

Volunteer

The work we do is 100% conducted by volunteers. Consider volunteering your time at an upcoming trail work day.

Donate

Your donation improves our ability to perform trail work and educate the community.

Sponsor

Your sponsorship of SCTB allows us to grow and increases our capacity to conduct trail maintenance, initiate new trail projects, and host impactful community events

