

## Annual Town of Taos Plaza Maintenance to Begin Next Week

**Taos, NM** – The Town of Taos announced today that annual safety and aesthetic maintenance will begin on the Town Plaza May 2. The work will last approximately four to six weeks.

Serving as a hub for community gatherings, music and other activities throughout the year, the Town undertakes annual maintenance of the plaza to keep it in the best shape possible. This year, maintenance efforts will focus on several areas, including: adding sod and irrigation to the grassy areas, removing hardscape, planting new trees, repairing brick and building a cedar deck on the gazebo.

“Each year we undertake targeted maintenance of the plaza in order to improve the safety and aesthetics of the area,” said Facilities and Events Division Director Mitch Miller. “This is an important area of town, for locals and visitors alike. We have some major improvements that will soon be underway that will improve the look and feel, as well as provide more performance space for those using the gazebo.”

Several trees will be removed due to their limited lifespan, with Cottonwood and Siberian Elm Trees being removed this year. These trees tend to live for an average of 60 to 100 years, with several located on the plaza reaching the end of their lifespan. The Town plans to plant two trees for every tree that is removed, with a total of ten trees being planted during this year’s maintenance efforts.

**About the Plaza:** Taos Plaza is the Heart of Taos. It is the center of the Taos Historic District where locals gather for Taos Plaza Live concerts, May through October. Throughout the year, visitors enjoy the numerous shops and galleries that surround the plaza. Don Fernando de Taos Plaza was settled by Spanish colonists more than 300 years ago and still retains its original shape. The plaza was originally built for defense, with windows and doors facing into the plaza and limited entrances into buildings that could be barricaded.

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