



OPEN SPACE *newsletter*



Mayor Martin J. Chávez

A Quarterly Newsletter of the Open Space Division and the Open Space Alliance

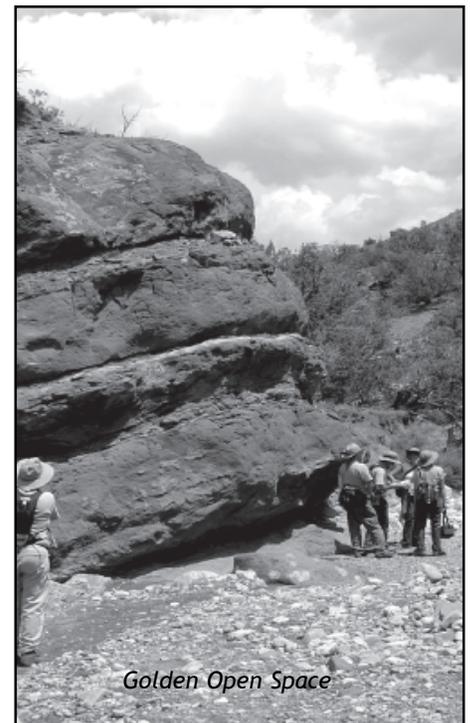
Volume 6, Issue 2, April - June 2005

EAST MOUNTAIN OPEN SPACE PLANS ARE READY

This March, Resource Management plans for four Open Space properties located in the East Mountain area were approved by the Bernalillo County Commission. The approved plans were for city-owned properties at Tres Pistolas, Juan Tomas, San Antonito, and Gutierrez Canyon. Acting as a resource management roadmap, they address the following kinds of questions: What are the primary geographic/environmental characteristics of the site? What are the most important environmental concerns? Do valuable cultural resources exist on site? What kinds of users will be attracted to the area (horseback riders, hikers, mountain bikers, etc), and what needs to be done to minimize impacts to the site, while maximizing public enjoyment? What kinds of studies need to be conducted (ecological, archaeological) in order to better understand the management issues on site? How will public safety and access (fuelwood reduction, parking, fencing) be provided for? How do adjacent land uses affect the area?

The answers to these questions were reached through a lengthy public processes. Participation included the formation of a steering committee staffed by area residents and other interested parties; guided public familiarization tours of each property; citizen stewardship opportunities; community outreach (meetings, newspaper feature articles); and design charette workshops (in which community members identified facility needs and conceptual design elements).

East Mountain residents proved eager to get involved in their particular Open Space area. A core group of neighborhood stewards was formed to take an active role in the management of each property. This planning effort could not have been possible without their input. The fruits of these efforts promise present and future generations of Albuquerque and Bernalillo County citizens precious refuge from the hustle of the city, while helping to maintain the ecological integrity of the East Mountains.



Golden Open Space

DON'T WAIT! GET INVOLVED.

Looking for activities to help shake off the winter sleep? Well, Open Space has something for you! Spring is a busy time for conservation projects, education programs and other cool events that invite you to explore Open Space. This quarter's Calendar of Events is chock full of fun opportunities, so don't hesitate! Check out the Calendar and choose which activities you're going to join us for. Also visit our website at www.cabq.gov/openspace for updates to the calendar.

MAYOR'S MESSAGE



Martin J. Chavez, Mayor

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'MJ Chavez'.

Martin J. Chávez, Mayor

Spring is here and so much is happening on Open Space lands. Let me just tell you about three events we recently held in the bosque at the new Open Space Pueblo Montano facility. First, on January 13th, the 'New Bosque Forest' project planting kick-off took place at the site of the 2nd catastrophic fire of 2003. With the help of Bosque School, we are re-creating a historic bosque mosaic of meadows, grasslands, shrubs, thickets, with some moist-soils areas providing diverse habitats for many critters. And, at the same site, on February 23rd, with the help and support of a number of environmental groups, I was privileged to sign the historic, unprecedented, water-policy agreement that ended the legal challenge to the City's use of San Juan-Chama water. This will help restore the Rio Grande river, bring water to Albuquerque, and help regenerate the most productive habitat in the southwest, where over 400 species of birds and wildlife are absolutely dependent on river flows. This agreement will also allow the river to reclaim rights to it's own water and help protect the Silvery Minnow! And finally, I was honored to break ground on March 4th with community members, again, at the Pueblo Montano facility, and plant trees for the 'AIDS Memorial Grove,' a community-driven and financed project to regenerate the bosque and remember loved ones who have been victims of the AIDS epidemic. The hope is for a peaceful place for contemplation and remembrance in a natural setting. And so much more is blossoming throughout Open Space. The big snow and wonderful moisture that we've been receiving is a glistening sign of such promise for all the new (and established!) plants throughout our Open Spaces. In this issue, you'll find abundant opportunities to visit many Open Space lands and participate in the cultivation of Albuquerque's treasure chest of habitats. In the warmth of the sun, through the quenching rain and double rainbows, I encourage you and your family and friends to enjoy the lush spring of Open Space lands.

CHANGES AT OPEN SPACE

There have been several important administrative changes at the Open Space Division in the recent months. Jay Hart, Open Space Division Superintendent for 10 years and with Open Space since 1984, has now been promoted to Director of Parks and Recreation for the City of Albuquerque. At the same time, we are pleased to announce that Dr. Matt Schmader has become the new Superintendent of the Open Space Division. Finally, we would like to congratulate Jay Lee Evans, Open Space Division Resource Management and Visitor Services Program Manager, on his promotion to Assistant Superintendent.

Birth Announcement!

On January 28th, Open Space Specialist, long-time volunteer coordinator, and Open Space News editor Jodi Hedderig, gave birth to her daughter *Sage Tallulah Hutchins*. Congratulations Jodi and Jason!!

Volunteer Foresters Help Restore the Bosque

The bosque has 1,000 more trees thanks to the efforts of over 360 students and volunteers who helped make the 2005 tree-planting season a great success. Elementary, middle school and high school students, as well as adult volunteers from PNM, Peace Corps and Hoffmantown West Church helped re-forest 30 acres with cottonwoods, willows and understory bosque shrubs.

Of course none of this could have happened without the outstanding help and support of Tony Barron, Ray Chapler and the rest of the Open Space tree-planting crew. Before the volunteers arrive, the site has already been prepped and the holes drilled down past the water table. The crew has the trees and tools ready to go. The hardest part of the work is done so that volunteers can plant anywhere from 30 - 50 trees in less than two hours. Usually after the work is done, someone says, "Is that all? Can't we plant some more?"

This new generation of youth seems to like the idea that they're planting the new generation of bosque trees - may they all enjoy long and healthy lives.

TWO PRIME PARCELS ADDED TO OPEN SPACE NETWORK

Two very important Open Space land acquisitions have been accomplished since the start of 2005. Just after the first of the year, a settlement was announced between the City and former owners of the Taylor property on the west side of the Rio Grande north of Montano. This area of the bosque, totaling 126.6 acres, was the last large tract of private land remaining in Rio Grande Valley State Park. It is one of the widest parts of the bosque, and after City contractors cleared the dense non-native underbrush last summer, the area looked like a pastoral park setting. However, underlying the serenity was a looming battle *royale* between the land-owner (who was planning a subdivision with more than 100 houses in the bosque) and the City, which asserted that houses would never be built there. The City ultimately prevailed by making an offer of \$73,500 an acre—double what it wanted to pay, but less than half of what the owner was hoping to get. In the end, the settlement was well worth both the cost and the effort to ensure this priceless area will be forever protected and available for the public to enjoy.



Less than a month later, the City and the State Land Office culminated a land exchange that had been underway for well over a year. The Mayor and the Land Commissioner signed documents that transferred ownership of 327 acres to the City on the north side of I-40 at the mouth of Tijeras Canyon. The property adjoins existing Open Space in the south Sandia foothills to the west and the Forest Service's Sandia Mountain Wilderness to the north. This land is some of the most dramatic at the base of the Sandias, with huge piles of boulders and incredible steep slopes rising over 500 feet in less than a half mile.

Other land acquired by the City in earlier stages of this complex exchange included 525 acres between the west side of Petroglyph Monument and Paseo del Volcan, and 200 acres along the west edge of "Quail Ranch" overlooking the Rio Puerco valley. In turn, the City exchanged trust lands north of Double Eagle airport and in Farmington.

Open Space Police Now Supervised by APD *...just the facts*

On December 3, 2004, supervision of the Open Space Police was transferred from Open Space Division administration to the Albuquerque Police Department (APD). This decision followed the retirement of Chief Stephen Thomas, who was Chief of Open Space Police since its inception. Lt. Ruben Griego has since been appointed as the current commander for the Open Space Unit.

This merger consolidates law enforcement responsibilities as the Open Space Police unit now falls under the APD Metro Division, commanded by Captain Mike Castro. This combines the specialized expertise of Open Space Police with the logistical support and resources of APD, resulting in more effective service to the public.

The Open Space Police began its distinguished service to the community in 1983 with just four officers. At that time, members of the force were known as "Conservation Officers." As the force expanded, the unit acquired and shed various other titles, including "Rangers" and "Park Police", finally settling on "Open Space Police." Today the force is made up of 19 sworn officers. Of these, between three and four are on duty at any given time, and are responsible for public safety on 29,000+ acres of Open Space. Officers are highly trained in an array of patrol techniques - vehicle, mountain bike, horseback, all-terrain vehicle, motorcycle, hovercraft, and foot patrols - and are classified as one of APD's Special Units.

Despite the administrative adjustments, the mission and duties of Open Space Police will remain the same, and their service to the community will continue without interruption. Until further notice, Open Space Police continue to be based out of Montessa Park.

To report violations or otherwise contact the Open Space Police, radio dispatch can be reached at 452-5206.

APRIL

- 2 SPRING CLEAN UP IN THE FOOTHILLS**
Sandia Foothills @ Copper 9:00 am - 1:00 pm
Don't have time to help clean up your favorite Open Space area in the Sandia Foothills? RUBBISH! Each Saturday we will work to carry out old and new trash from the Foothills and contribute to its preservation. A prize for the most interesting piece of trash each work day! Spring Clean Up in the Foothills continues every Saturday through May 7. See the Calendar for additional dates and locations. *Please bring work gloves, water and sun protection.*
- 9 SPRING CLEAN UP IN THE FOOTHILLS**
Sandia Foothills @ Indian School 9:00 am - 1:00 pm
Open Space parking area at the east end of Indian School. See April 2 listing for more information.
- 16 SPRING CLEAN UP IN THE FOOTHILLS**
Sandia Foothills @ Menaul 9:00 am - 1:00 pm
Open Space parking area at the east end of Menaul. See April 2 listing for more information.
- 17 EARTH DAY CELEBRATION AT THE LA MONTANITA COOP**
On Silver behind the Nob Hill Shopping Center 10:00 am - 5:00 pm
Make sure you visit the Open Space Division table while taking in the sights, sounds and sensations at this very festive celebration of our Earth.
- 20 OPEN SPACE ALLIANCE MEETING**
4:00 pm - 6:00 pm
The Open Space Alliance is a Friends group supporting Open Space Division education and conservation. Meetings are open to the public. Call 452-5200 for meeting location and more information.
- 23 SPRING CLEAN UP IN THE FOOTHILLS**
Sandia Foothills @ Piedra Lisa 9:00 am - 1:00 pm
Travel east on Candelaria until it ends. Turn right on Camino de la Sierra and Piedra Lisa will be a little bit down the road on the left. See April 2 listing for more information.
- 30 SPRING CLEAN UP IN THE FOOTHILLS**
Sandia Foothills @ Embudito Canyon 9:00 am - 1:00 pm
Go east on Montgomery from Tramway. Turn left on Glenwood Hills and right on Trailhead Rd. See April 2 listing for more information.
- 30 LANDSCAPES, CULTURAL PROPERTIES AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES**
National Park Service, Petroglyph National Monument 9:00 am - 3:30 pm
This talk and slide presentation will be presented by Dr. Kurt Anschuetz, Program Director for the Rio Grande Foundation for Communities and Cultural Landscapes. Learn why sacred landscapes such as found in Petroglyph National Monument are important to native peoples and play a living role in their lives today. Following the slide presentation we will visit the ancestral pueblo site of Piedras Marcadas with Dr. Matt Schmader, Open Space Superintendent, to discuss how the residents of this "old village" and their descendants interact with the surrounding landscape. **Registration is required and limited to 30 participants** - please call **899-0205 ext. 337** for more information.

MAY

- 7 SPRING CLEAN UP IN THE FOOTHILLS**
Sandia Foothills @ Bear Canyon 9:00 am - 1:00 pm
This cleanup will take place at the west end of Bear Canyon Open Space. Parking available at the John Roberts dam on Juan Tabo, just north of Manitoba (which is not a light) and south of Spain (which is). Once you park meet the group on the east side of the dam. See April 2 listing for more information.
- 7 & 8 HERB FEST**
Rio Grande Nature Center 10:00 am
Enjoy this spring celebration with plants, speakers and fun activities. Call 344-7240 for more information.
- 14 NATIONAL RIVER CLEAN UP WEEK**
Central and the river, N/W corner of the Bridge 9:00 am - 1:00pm
National River Clean Up was originally conceived in 1991 by America Outdoors® in response to a recognition that America's streams and rivers were in need of cleaning due to the careless disposal of trash and other debris. Our own Rio Grande and bosque needs our attention and care to keep it healthy. Bring the family, friends or dog (on a leash, of course). You will need work gloves, water, and sun protection. *All are encouraged to organize a clean up in their favorite area of the bosque during the clean up week.* Please call 452-5213 for more information.
- 18 OPEN SPACE ALLIANCE ANNUAL MEETING**
4:00 pm - 6:00 pm
The Open Space Alliance is a volunteer Friends group supporting Open Space Division education and conservation. Please see page 7 for more information on this special **annual** meeting. Call 452-5200 for location and more information.
- 21 NATIONAL RIVER CLEAN UP WEEK**
Bridge St. and the river, S/E corner of the Bridge 9:00 am - 1:00pm
Parking at the National Hispanic Cultural Center at Bridge and 8th St. The bosque needs your help!
- 21 PUBLIC LANDS, PUBLIC LANDSCAPES**
National Park Service, Petroglyph National Monument 8:00 am - 5:00 pm
Join a team of multi-agency instructors for an all day journey that will explore some of Albuquerque's finest public lands. The adventure will start at the Albuquerque Volcanoes, stop at the Rio Grande Nature Center and end at the Elena Gallegos Picnic Area. Vans will be provided for your transportation. **Registration is required and limited to 26 participants.** Please call 899-0205 ext. 337 for more information.
- 28 OPENING EVENING: SUNSET SERIES (program TBA)**
Double Shelter, Elena Gallegos Picnic Area 7:00 pm
Visit page 6 for more information on the upcoming Summer Series.
- 29 OPENING MORNING: SUNDAY HIKES (program TBA)**
Pino Trailhead, Elena Gallegos Picnic Area 9:00 am
Visit page 6 for more information on the upcoming Summer Series.

JUNE

5 NATIONAL TRAILS DAY

Elena Gallegos Picnic Area 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

A national day of reverence for the paths that lead us to, into, over, under and through all the wonders of the outdoors. Good trails don't just happen, they must be planned, designed, built and maintained--Open Space achieves this with the help of volunteers. Celebrate outdoor access and conservation with a McCleod. What is a McCleod? Find out at National Trails Day. Call 452-5200 for more information. *The first 100 people to sign up with REI will receive a free t-shirt!*

15 OPEN SPACE ALLIANCE MEETING

4:00 pm

The Open Space Alliance is a volunteer Friends group supporting Open Space Division education and conservation. Meetings are open to the public. Call 452-5200 for meeting location and more information.

SUMMER SERIES IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER

As I'm sitting at my computer typing this article, its hard to think about summer when there is still snow on the Sandias, but warm temperatures and long days are just a flip of a calendar page away, and so is the Open Space Summer Series.

Although the schedule is not completed yet, you can look forward to a great variety of programs, including wildflower hikes, concerts, story-telling programs, cultural demonstrations, wildlife tracking programs and map and compass workshops. From Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend, you and your family can find all kinds of activities to enjoy in your Open Space Lands. If you'd like a brochure listing all of the Summer Series events, please call Bonnie Dils at 452-5205, or e-mail her at bdils@cabq.gov. Also check out the new Open Space web site for the schedule, as well as other Open Space projects and volunteer opportunities at www.cabq.gov/openspace.



*Discovery during a
Sunday Hike*

AND THAT'S NOT ALL...

Open Space isn't the only agency offering great programs this spring -- learn to make a ceramic pot with a Laguna Pueblo potter, discover the mysteries of the Albuquerque volcanoes, start a nature journal and so much more cool stuff! Visit the National Park Service website at www.nps.gov/petr for their calendar of events at *Petroglyph National Monument*.

If you like getting busy with earthworms, enjoy the rough massage of earth beneath your fingernails, or can't imagine anything better than the fragrance of, umm, fertilizer, than contact *Rio Grande Community Farms* to find out how you can help on the farm. Contact Beverly Rowe, RGCF Service Coordinator, at 345-4580 or visit www.riograndefarms.org

The *Rio Grande Nature Center* always has neat talks, walks and activities for the family. For a full calendar of events, call 344-7240.



OSA ANNUAL MEETING SCHEDULED FOR MAY 18

This year's Open Space Alliance Annual Meeting will feature a tour of the Four Hills-area Open Spaces, updates on dozens of volunteer and City Open Space projects, and election of a new Board.

The meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 18 from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. at the Manzano Mesa Multi-generational Center - one of Albuquerque's new 'centers for all ages' - at 501 Elizabeth SE (south of Central, east of Eubank).

All Alliance members and other Open Space volunteers and enthusiasts are invited to this annual get-together.

From 4:30 to 5:30 p.m., attendees will have a chance to meet Open Space staff and the current OSA Board. The agenda includes an update on the Visitor's Center - scheduled for a spring 2006 opening; a discussion and feedback session on the newly adopted Open Space Gift and Memorial Guidelines; and future OSA projects. The Alliance encourages members and other guests to offer their ideas and suggestions for our activities and funding priorities.

Following the meeting, at 5:30 p.m., the Alliance Board and City Open Space staff will host a one-hour tour of the four-Hills-area Open Spaces. This area includes the Manzano Four Hills area at the end of Stage Coach Road; the newly acquired 327-acre Open Space addition in the Southern Sandias (see article on page 3); and the Four Hills Stables.

For more information on the annual meeting, or on how to get involved in OSA's activities, contact Board President Dick Traeger at rktraeg@comcast.net or 294-2564.



Get involved in the Open Space Alliance today and contribute to the future of YOUR Open Space!

Your generous contribution to the Open Space Alliance supports OSA's mission of enhancing our quality of life through: heightening public awareness of Open Space lands; building and strengthening partnerships with groups who share Open Space values; promoting conservation, acquisition, and stewardship of Open Space lands; strengthening volunteerism and community outreach programs; providing financial support.

For information about our current activities, contact Dick Traeger, OSA Board President, at rktraeg@comcast.net, or 294-2564.

To join, please fill out the information and return the form with your check or money order.

NAME: _____ DATE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP CODE: _____

HOME PHONE: _____ E-MAIL: _____

- NEW MEMBER
- RENEWAL
- \$10 STUDENT (18 & UNDER) / SENIOR
- \$20 INDIVIDUAL
- \$30 FAMILY
- \$250 SUSTAINING
- \$500 CORPORATE
- \$1000 LIFE MEMBER

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: Open Space Alliance, P.O. Box 91265, Albuquerque, NM 87199

OPEN SPACE news

is a quarterly publication of the
City of Albuquerque, Parks & Recreation Department, **OPEN SPACE DIVISION**
P.O. Box 1293, Albuquerque, NM 87103
Phone: (505) 452-5200 (voice/relay) | FAX: 873-6628
www.cabq.gov/openspace
and funded by the **OPEN SPACE ALLIANCE**

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OPEN SPACE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES
3615 Los Picaros Rd. SE
7:00 am to 5:00 pm
Monday through Friday
873-6620

ELENA GALLEGOS PICNIC AREA
Winter: 7:00 am to 7:00 pm
Summer: 7:00 am to 9:00 pm
all week
\$1.00 weekdays / \$2.00 weekends
857-8334

**PETROGLYPH NATIONAL MONUMENT
Boca Negra Canyon**
Las Imagenes Visitor Center
8:00 am to 5:00 pm, all week
\$1.00 weekdays / \$2.00 weekends

**RIO GRANDE VALLEY STATE PARK
Rio Grande Nature Center**
2901 Candelaria NW
(505) 344-7240
10:00 am to 5:00 pm, all week
\$1 Adults / \$.50 Children

TO REPORT VIOLATIONS
7:00 am to 11:00 pm, all week
(505) 873-6632 (voice/relay)

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