



OPEN SPACE *newsletter*



Mayor Martín J. Chávez

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

Volume 10, Issue 1, January - March 2009

Open Space Celebrates 25 Years of Public Lands Stewardship

In 2009, the Open Space Division turns 25! We'll be celebrating this important milestone throughout the year with special events, presentations, and an expanded newsletter that will feature fascinating Open Space history and trivia.

In 1984, a new Division was formed within the City's Parks and Recreation Department. Known as the Open Space Division, its employees were charged with the responsibility of protecting and managing environmentally and culturally significant lands in and around the City of Albuquerque.

The Division's first offices were located in a portable trailer located at Pino Yards off of I-25. The Division started with a total of four employees (See page 3). Open Space now occupies the site of an old National Forest Service tree nursery in Montessa Park and employs over 40 people. Some of the first properties under the Division's management included land acquired in the early 1960s through the federal Recreation and Public Purposes Act including Golden, Gutierrez Canyon, La Boca Negra, Carolino Canyon, Four Hills Park, Placitas, San Antonito, and the Shooting Range Park.

Although the Division officially formed in 1984, the seeds were planted in 1969 when the City Goals Committee wrote a series of ambitious policies for land conservation: "...to preserve the unique natural features of the metropolitan area by achieving a pattern of development and open space respecting the river, land, mesa, mountains, volcanoes, and arroyos."

In 1975 citizen groups working to preserve land throughout the City were brought together in the "Open Space Task Force" led by facilitator Philip Tollefsrud.

By 1979, the City/County Comprehensive Plan was published, laying the groundwork for a dynamic and diverse Open Space system.

From these humble beginnings, the Open Space Division has expanded to be one of the top programs of its kind in the nation. The Trust for Public Land recently recognized Albuquerque as ranking first place nationally for its percentage of land devoted to open space and parks, with more than one-quarter of its land base protected as public open space.

With nearly 29,000 acres currently protected as Major Public Open Space, the Open Space Division manages a precious heritage that will be enjoyed for generations to come.

An impressive feature of Albuquerque's Open Space system is the sheer diversity of properties. Open Space helps to preserve world class archeological sites, dormant volcanoes, forested mountains and uplands, desert grasslands, 366 acres of active farmland, migratory bird habitat, wetlands, and a 20 mile section of the world's largest riverside cottonwood forest, among others.

The citizens of Albuquerque can be very proud of the accomplishments that have taken place over the last 25 years. For the next 25 years, the Open Space Division is ready to face the challenges of a growing city, and we will continue to provide excellent stewardship of our natural and cultural patrimony.

Please see www.cabq.gov/openspace or call 452-5200 for more details about 25th Anniversary events taking place throughout 2009. Information will also appear in future editions of this newsletter.



A Milestone for Open Space

by Mayor Martin J. Chávez



The Holiday season and 2008 have come to a close. I am sure that over the past year many of you visited one of the beautiful Open Space areas located in and around Albuquerque. Even if you didn't, just driving across one of the Rio Grande bridges or viewing the Sandia Foothills or West Mesa volcanoes from afar gives you spectacular views of some of our most visible and important Major Public Open Spaces.

In January of 2009 the Open Space Division will be having a birthday. The Division will be turning *25 years new*, and there will be a lot of exciting happenings in the year to come. The Open Space Division was created in January of 1984. Though many properties were purchased prior to the creation of the Open Space Division, the majority of Open Space lands have been acquired since 1984. I have personally overseen the purchase of such places as Los Poblanos Fields, land in the Rio Grande Bosque, the Manzano/Four Hills property, Tijeras Canyon, the Atrisco Terrace, and the Gutierrez Canyon Extension (John A. Milne Property) during my administrations.

Albuquerque residents can be proud that we now have one the best and most diverse Open Space programs in the country, with nearly 29,000 acres of land permanently protected for the enjoyment of our citizens.

The Open Space Division will have special engagements and programs throughout 2009 to celebrate with you. Visit the Open Space website (www.cabq.gov/openspace) often to learn about upcoming events and fun tours of *your* Open Space! Major Public Open Space is critical to sustaining a healthy community, so please get out and support the Open Space program in 2009.

Congratulations Albuquerque!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'MJC', written in a cursive style.



"Elena Gallegos First Snow"
Photo by Bill Pentler

In the Beginning...

Tony Barron, Assistant Open Space Superintendent and long time Open Space employee relates stories of the Division's humble origins to Open Space Planner Kent Swanson.

Part 1: The Trailer and the Bosque

The Open Space Division has come a long way since its birth in 1984. Tony Barron, now the Division's Assistant Superintendent, began working for the City's Parks and Recreation Department on November 15th, 1982. At that time, Tony, Jay Hart (now Parks and Recreation Director for Rio Rancho), Tim Purtell and a small band of Parks employees were tasked with managing lands which now form the cornerstones of the Open Space system. These properties included parts of the Sandia Foothills, several East Mountain properties, the Rio Grande Bosque, the Volcanoes, and other sections of what is now the Petroglyph National Monument, among others. Before the formation of the Division these properties were managed under the "Regional Parks Program" of the Parks and Recreation Department.

In 1984 the City found the need to create a new Division within Parks and Recreation to manage the increasing number of protected areas and Open Space preserves in and around Albuquerque. With the purchase of a secondhand trailer and the declaration of "grab your stuff, fix up that trailer and move in there," the Open Space Division was born.

The trailer, parked at the City's Pino Yards facility near San Antonio and I-25, served as a tool shed, meeting room, and office. "Most of our good tools were 'borrowed' by other Parks and Recreation staff. We didn't have much of anything to start with," says Tony. Tony also recalls the first City vehicles issued to the Division. "My first vehicle was number 1303. When I revved it up after stopping at an intersection a huge cloud of smoke came out of the tailpipe." His second vehicle was an old Datsun truck. "It had a scary backfiring problem," Tony recalls.

In 1983 the State Legislature created the Rio Grande Valley State Park, a protected preserve consisting of 4,300 acres of riverside cottonwood forest that extends from Sandia Pueblo in the north through Albuquerque and south to Isleta Pueblo. The preserve is co-managed between the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District and the Open Space Division.

Before the Open Space Division had even formed Parks Director Orlie Sedillo assigned Tony with an enormous challenge. A quick order of "clean up the Bosque" came from his superiors. And so, with a rough and tumble crew of about ten people, a few tools and trash bags they set out to clean up a 20 mile stretch of unfenced, unprotected riverside forest. "The crew was hand picked by the Parks Department. They were covered in tattoos and some of them just looked plain mean. Those were some rough individuals," remembers Tony.

Tony remembers that the Rio Grande Bosque of the 1980s was nothing like the Bosque of today. It did indeed serve many recreational purposes, but few of those were legal. Being unfenced and easily accessible, many people also considered it a much more convenient place to dump trash and old cars than the official City dump.



In the Beginning...

...Continued from Page 3

So, the intrepid team headed off into the Bosque. After days of removing garbage and returning to find the same areas filled up again and again with trash, it was clear that their efforts would be fruitless unless the Bosque was fenced and protected. With limited money and equipment, Tony says he was able to assemble rudimentary gates



News Clippings from the Early Days of the Division

at major access points using guard rails and recycled materials donated by the State Highway Department and local businesses. Tony recalls that the Central Avenue Bosque gate was the first one he ever installed. However, many members of the public were less than receptive to having their garbage dumps, makeout spots and party places cut off. But with those first few gates Tony and crew were able to finally make headway on restoring this precious natural resource. Later, with help from the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District and other local organizations, the Bosque continued to improve in appearance and health. With fenced boundaries and no vehicle access, horseback riders, hikers, fishermen, and families started to venture into what was before an eyesore and an unsavory locale. In addition to fencing and securing the Bosque, Tony is responsible for perfecting the technique of “pole planting” young cottonwoods for reforestation and has overseen more than 20,000 new trees planted in the Bosque. (see page 7)

These days the Bosque contains amenities such as naturally surfaced hiking and equestrian trails, fishing piers, paved bicycle paths and picnic areas. Thousands of people now visit the Bosque each year for bird watching, hiking, bicycling, and other (legal) activities. The citizens of Albuquerque and New Mexico have come to recognize our Bosque as a true natural jewel of our City and State. So, next time you see Tony, make sure you thank him for all the hard work he and the first employees of Open Space did in the early days! Those who were around back then know just how far we've come!

Stay tuned for more installments of “In the Beginning,” appearing in the Open Space News throughout our 25th Anniversary Year!

Honoring Leopold's Legacy in the Southwest

~by *Kent Swanson and Martin Martinez*



"I am glad I shall never be young without wild country to be young in.
Of what avail are forty freedoms without a blank spot on the map?"

—Aldo Leopold

Aldo Leopold, considered the father of modern wildlife ecology, spent many years of his life in New Mexico and left behind an impressive environmental legacy in our great state. Among his many accomplishments are the creation of the Gila Wilderness near Silver City (the first proclaimed Wilderness area in the U.S.) and the foundation of the Albuquerque Wildlife Federation. He also strongly advocated for the responsible growth of Albuquerque during his time here. In 1909, Leopold graduated from the Yale School of Forestry and started a career with the U.S. Forest Service in Arizona and New Mexico. 2009 marks the 100th Anniversary of his arrival to the Southwest and the beginning of his celebrated career.

Leopold had a special love for Albuquerque. It was here where he met his wife Estella and lived in a house near the Rio Grande. In 1918, Leopold served as the Secretary of Albuquerque's Chamber of Commerce. At that time he promoted the creation of what would later become the Rio Grande Valley State Park. Leopold's vision and efforts also eventually lead to the creation of the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District, Rio Grande Zoological Park, Botanical Gardens, and the Rio Grande Nature Center.

In early 2009 the Open Space Division and the Conservancy District hope to dedicate a section of the Rio Grande Valley State Park as the "Aldo Leopold Forest." The City of Albuquerque first celebrated Leopold's love for the Rio Grande's cottonwood forest in 1998 by dedicating a fully accessible loop trail near the Rio Grande Nature Center in Leopold's honor. The Aldo Leopold Forest is planned for the area just north of this well known trail.

The Forest will be approximately 53 acres in size, extending from the north boundary of the Nature Center to the southeast side of the Montaña Bridge. Plans for the forest include a naturally surfaced trail extending from the existing paved trail. This trail would connect to the Montaña Bridge and will tie into existing trail systems on the west side of the river at the Pueblo Montaña picnic area. After the trail is complete hikers, mountain bikers, and equestrians on both sides of the river will be able to enjoy an improved and expanded trail system. Additional plans include interpretive signage that will honor Leopold's legacy in New Mexico by promoting Leopold's vision of an ethical relationship with the land. The Open Space Division is also planning rehabilitation of the area through the removal of exotic species and the planting of native shrubs and cottonwoods.

Special ceremonies will be held on **February 15th** at the Open Space Visitor Center and in the Rio Grande Valley State Park near the Nature Center in honor of Leopold. Also, throughout 2009 the Open Space Division and the New Mexico Parks Department will host field trips to the Bosque. Additionally, the Open Space Visitor Center will be host to a collection of photographs of the Gila River in February to honor Leopold's work there. Please see www.cabq.gov/openspace or call 452-5200 for times, locations, and more details. For more information about Leopold celebrations throughout the Southwest, see the Aldo Leopold Centennial Celebration website:

www.leopoldcelebration.org

Open Space Presents: New Mexico Weaves

NEW MEXICO WEAVES

Weavings reflecting our finest abilities as artists, tied to the landscape and embedded in New Mexico's history, we invite you to enjoy this show of talent.

Open Space Visitor Center
6500 Coors between Montano and Paseo del Norte

Opening January 3, 2009
1pm- 4pm
Check website for demonstration times

Presented by: The City of Albuquerque
Open Space Visitor Center
505-897-8831
www.cabq.gov/openspace

Mayor Martín Chávez

WHAT: Weavings by Donna Loraine Contractor, Pat Dozier, Cathlena Burr and Las Arañas Spinners and Weavers Guild. Weavings and tapestries will be for sale. A portion of the proceeds go to support the Open Space Alliance, a non-profit organization whose funds support Open Space education.
FREE ADMISSION

WHERE: Open Space Visitor Center. 6500 Coors Blvd., NW (Between Montañño & Paseo del Norte at Bosque Meadows Rd.)

WHEN: January 3, 2009 – February.
Opening Reception: January 3, 1:00pm – 4:00pm

CONTACT: Joshua Willis, 505-897-8831, jrwillis@cabq.gov

DEMONSTRATIONS:

"Spin- In"

Saturday January 17, 10am – 2pm. Weavers will get together and spin wool into yarn.

Wool Dyeing Workshop

Saturday February 7, 10am – 2pm. Denise Davis will demonstrate techniques for dyeing wool with local flora such as Four Winged Salt Bush, Globe Mallow, Mullen and other experimental plants.

More demonstrations TBA. See www.cabq.gov/openspace or call 897-8831

The Wonders of Pole Planting

by Bill Pentler



The common statement that “it’s that time of year” means something different for a number of us at Open Space. It means that it’s time to prepare for reforestation projects in the Rio Grande Valley State Park using “pole plantings.” Pole planting is a major part of our reclamation and maintenance of the Rio Grande’s cottonwood Bosque. It takes a lot of work, so we’re always looking for volunteers to help out, but it’s also a lot of fun!

One of the wondrous and amazing things about some of the plants in New Mexico is their ability to survive under tough conditions. The willow family (Salicaceae), of which cottonwoods are a part, has a unique trait that promotes their survival. Just about any part of a willow or cottonwood tree that settles into water will root and grow. Not just any kind of tree will do this, and this unique trait allows us to recycle branches from overgrown and well-established willows and cottonwoods for use in reforestation projects.

Why do we need to replant cottonwoods and willows in the Bosque?

Long ago in our zeal to stop the Rio Grande from flooding homes and agricultural land we channelized the river and built levees and jetty jacks to control water and debris flows. In doing this we interrupted the natural life cycle of the river and Bosque and created other problems. A natural Bosque would actually be more of a mosaic of cottonwood groves mixed with grasses, shrubs, wetlands, etc. The long, continuous cottonwood forest of today is mostly a product of a few flood events that spread seeds throughout the river valley during the early 1900s and in 1941.

Before people intervened, the annual flooding would bring in new nutrients and sediments. Without flooding, cottonwood seeds, viable for only one season, don’t have enriched wet areas to take root. Seeds that do manage to sprout have to compete for space and sun with numerous other native plants. Many plants out-compete cottonwoods because they have seeds that can last for years, or until conditions are right to sprout. Cottonwoods and willows also now have to compete with exotic, non-native trees such as Salt Cedar and Russian olives, and weeds like kochia and tumbleweed. As a result, not many new cottonwoods reproduce on their own. This fact has also led to the proliferation of these exotic species.

It’s now up to us to plant new cottonwoods so that they can take hold and successfully compete with the non-natives. To accomplish this we plant “poles,” which are long, straight branches from cottonwoods and black willows. We choose this time of year because the trees and branches are dormant through the winter and aren’t harmed by our activities. We typically select a burn site or an area that we’ve recently cleared of invasive species and/or weeds. We also look for areas that will receive extra moisture during the spring snowmelt. To plant the poles we drill down sometimes as deep as 9 feet to reach the water table and “plant” the poles.

If we do everything properly, a fresh crop of cottonwoods and willow trees will thrive to enhance the area. Usually we are able to plant around 1,000 poles per winter season. We follow up by planting native shrubs such as golden currant, wolfberry, and sumac, and varied natural grasses. Before long we hope to have a more natural, diverse Bosque that supports a wide range of wildlife.

Now here’s the part where we talk about all the help. Open Space manages almost 20 miles of river corridor. It’s a lot of area to cover and we need your help to maintain it. This year Open Space is celebrating our Silver 25th Anniversary. What better way to celebrate than to help take care of our precious natural resources! Pole plantings make great service and learning projects for school classes and other groups. Pole planting gets everyone outside, teaches an appreciation for our amazing natural resources and promotes a bond with the land that we hope will be carried on through future generations. Another reward is that year after year you can visit the planted area and see how the trees are growing!

For more information or to schedule a date to volunteer yourself or your group, please contact:
Bill Pentler, 452-5222.

Don’t wait too long! Planting season starts January runs through mid-March, so available dates will fill up quickly.

Fall Volunteer Events a Great Success!

by Kent Swanson

October was a big month for Open Space, with two important volunteer events back to back. Between Día del Río and Make a Difference Day we had over 160 volunteers working to enhance two Major Public Open Space areas.

On the morning of October 18th over 80 dedicated volunteers and eight local conservation organizations came together to honor one of New Mexico's most precious natural resources, the Rio Grande and its Bosque during **Día del Río**.

After enjoying snacks donated by **La Montanita Co-op**, **General Mills**, and the **Open Space Alliance**, the volunteers headed out to various projects in the Bosque near the Rio Bravo Bridge. During the day we collected over 90 bags of trash from both sides of the river, removed graffiti from under the entire east side of the Rio Bravo bridge, hauled a truckload of tires and large debris from the Bosque, and cleared weeds and non-native plants from over one mile of hiking trails.

Another important project the volunteers completed was the rehabilitation of the Rio Bravo picnic area. They helped give it a facelift with new paint and planted the area with native shrubs and native grasses. Additionally, Kathleen Verhage of the City's Storm Water Team and several volunteers installed over 45 storm drain markers and distributed information about not dumping in storm drains to 250 houses in the area.

After the hard work, everyone gathered for more snacks and a raffle prize drawing. Prizes included cool outdoor goodies donated by **REI**, Maize Maze tickets from **Rio Grande Community Farm**, water bottles and sports equipment donated by **General Mills**, a gift certificate to **La Montanita Co-op**, and Open Space annual passes.

On October 25th, Mayor Martin Chavez's Office of Volunteerism and Engagement (MOVE), the City of Albuquerque Open Space Division, and the Nicodemus Wilderness Project hosted **Make a Difference Day** at the Piedra Lisa Open Space in the Sandia Foothills. **Make a Difference Day** is a national day of community service held annually at the end of October. Each year, volunteers throughout Albuquerque work to help improve the quality of life in our community through service projects.

Enthusiastic volunteers met at the parking area east of Tramway on Camino de la Sierra, just south of the east end of Candelaria to work on projects including trail maintenance, habitat restoration, trail building, trash cleanup, and graffiti removal. This day of spirited volunteerism was an enjoyable event for the whole family. The Nicodemus Wilderness Project provided coffee and morning snacks. 43 youth and 46 adults participated, for a total of 89 volunteers.

Our partner organization and co-organizer of the event the Nicodemus Wilderness Project is a worldwide organization based in Albuquerque and the adopters of the Piedra Lisa Open Space. Their mission is "to protect wildlife and our environment and to build future conservation leaders by engaging youth in environmental stewardship projects worldwide". Their program helps to elevate young people (especially at-risk and low-income kids and teens) into leadership roles by engaging them in environmental stewardship projects. For more information see www.wildernessproject.org.

It was great to have such wonderful volunteers and sponsors on board for our fall volunteer projects, and we're already looking forward to next year!

Día del Río 2009: October 17th. Help us celebrate the *15th Anniversary* of this important event.

October 24th: Make a Difference Day 2009. Meet at the Piedra Lisa Open Space, located at the end of east of Tramway on Camino de la Sierra, just south of the east end of Candelaria for a variety of conservation projects.

Events like Día del Río and Make a Difference Day bring the entire community together to help protect our City's precious natural resources. We look forward to seeing you next year!



JANUARY 2009

ONGOING: FIRST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH, 7:30 AM. *Guided Bosque Nature Walk.* Open Space Visitor Center. Join biologist, naturalist and birder Elsa Bumstead for a guided walk into the riverside forest and discover this world away from the city. Hot drinks and snacks after the hike provided by the Sunflower Market. Prepare for a 1.5 hour easy walk and dress for the weather. FREE. Binoculars are recommended. Space is limited to 20 people, 7 years old and above. Please call 897-8831 to pre-register and to receive directions to the trailhead.

Every Saturday, 9:00 AM - 10:30AM. *Tai Chi Chuan.* Open Space Visitor Center. Tai Chi Chuan will take place outdoors on the plaza overlooking the fields and mountains. Please dress in layers. A portion of your \$15.00 donation benefits the Open Space Alliance. Call 897-8831 for more details.

Every Sunday, 9:00am-10:30am. *Yoga with a View.* Open Space Visitor Center. Yoga with instructor Jenny Dominique. Class takes place indoors during winter months. A portion of your \$15.00 donation benefits the Open Space Alliance. Call 897-8831 for more details.

Jan. 3rd, 1:00pm - 4:00pm. *Opening Reception: New Mexico Weaves.* Open Space Visitor Center. See below for more details. FREE ADMISSION

Jan. 3rd, 2009 - Feb. 2009. *New Mexico Weaves Art Show and Sale.* Open Space Visitor Center. Weavings by Donna Loraine Contractor, Pat Dozier, Cathlena Burr and Las Arañas Spinners and Weavers Guild. Call 897-8831 for more details. FREE ADMISSION

Jan. 10th, 10am-Noon. *Trail Watch Volunteer Training.* Open Space Visitor Center. Call 897-8831 to register or for more information about the Trail Watch program.

Jan. 11th. 12:00 - 2:30 pm. *Wolf Meet and Greet with the Wanagi Wolf Fund.* Open Space Visitor Center. "Meet A Friendly Wolf!" Stephanie from Wanagi will bring three of her wolves/wolf-dogs for an up close and personal discussion of these beautiful animals and the importance we as humans managing and caring for them. Admission: FREE, but donations to the Wanagi Wolf Fund highly recommended. Call 897-8831 for more details.

Jan. 17, 10am - 2pm. *Weavers "Spin-In."* Open Space Visitor Center. A demonstration in support of the exhibit "New Mexico Weaves." (See Jan. 3rd listing) Local weavers will get together and spin wool into yarn. Call 897-8831 for more details.

Jan. 25th. 12:00 - 2:30 pm. *Wolf Meet and Greet with the Wanagi Wolf Fund.* Open Space Visitor Center. See the Jan. 11th listing.

FEBRUARY 2009

ONGOING: FIRST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH, 7:30 AM. *Guided Bosque Nature Walk.* See January listing.

Every Saturday, 9:00 AM - 10:30AM. *Tai Chi Chuan.* Open Space Visitor Center. See January listing

Every Sunday, 9:00am-10:30am. *Yoga with a View.* Open Space Visitor Center. See January listing.

Feb. 7, 10am - 2pm. *Wool Dyeing Workshop.* In support of the exhibit "New Mexico Weaves." (See Jan. 3rd listing) Open Space Visitor Center. Denise Davis will demonstrate techniques for dyeing wool with local flora such as Four Winged Salt Bush, Globe Mallow, Mullen and other experimental plants. Call 897-8831 for more details.

Feb. 15th. *Aldo Leopold Centennial Event and Memorial Tree Planting.* Open Space Visitor Center and the Rio Grande Bosque at Montano. Call 897-8831 for more details at times.

February (Opening Date TBA). *Gila River Photographs, In Honor of the Aldo Leopold Centennial Celebration.* Open Space Visitor Center. Call 897-8831 for more details.

MARCH 2009

ONGOING: FIRST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH, 7:30 AM. *Guided Bosque Nature Walk.* See January listing.

Every Saturday, 9:00 AM - 10:30AM. *Tai Chi Chuan.* Open Space Visitor Center. See January listing

Every Sunday, 9:00am-10:30am. *Yoga with a View.* Open Space Visitor Center. See January listing.

“Meet A Friendly Wolf!” with the Wanagi Wolf Fund



What: Wolf Meet and Greet at The Open Space Visitor Center (OSVC)

When: January 11th 2009 and January 25th 12:00 - 2:30 pm

Where: Open Space Visitor Center

Admission: FREE, but donations to the Wanagi Wolf Fund highly recommended

It is illegal anywhere in the United States to breed exotic animals: this includes wolves or wolf-dog crosses. Stephanie Kaylan, the founder and president of the Wanagi Wolf Fund, a non-profit 501(c)3, has been working to help get stricter laws passed to stop the breeding of these animals. She states, “As wonderful as wolf and wolf-dogs are, the abuse and neglect that I've witnessed is appalling. We must stop the breeding.”

“I've been involved in Wolf & Wolf Dog rescue since 1994 and have been nominated for the New Mexico Milagro Award for Animal Protection for the past 3 years. My beloved canine, Wanagi, died of lymphoma, never reaching his 7th birthday. Wanagi is Lakota for ‘the one who guards and protects the spirits of those who have passed onward.’ I want him and his name to live on, to do good, and to save lives.”

Stephanie will be at the Open Space Visitor Center the weekends of January 11 and the 25th from 12:00pm to 2:00pm. She will have up to three of her wolves/ wolf-dogs for an up close and personal discussion of these beautiful animals and the importance we as humans have in controlling them and caring for them. We invite you to come and enjoy this informative event. The Open Space Visitor Center is located at 6500 Coors Blvd. between Montano and Paseo del Norte. Look for our brown signs.

For more information call (505)897-8831 or visit www.cabq.gov/openspace.

Bosque Wild Guided Nature Hikes



FIRST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH

Join biologist, naturalist and birder Elsa Bumstead for a guided walk into the riverside forest and discover this world away from the city. Afterward, warm up with hot coffee and a snack provided by the Sunflower Market!

These monthly guided Bosque nature walks begin at the Open Space Visitor Center. Meet at 7:30 AM. Prepare for a 1.5 hour easy walk and dress for the weather.

The hike is FREE! Binoculars are recommended. Space is limited to 20 people, 7 years old and above.

Please call or email to pre-register and to receive directions to the trailhead.

CONTACT: 897-8831, openspace@cabq.gov

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS!

To assist Open Space staff on our **Annual Volunteer Event Food Committee**. From our after event BBQ on National River Cleanup to the picnic feast of National Trails Days, Open Space always treats our volunteers to hearty meals and snacks during our annual volunteer events.

We're looking for a few dedicated volunteers to help us organize the food for these events. Tasks include donation requests to local businesses and restaurants, food pick-up the week of the event, and organizing and preparing the meals the day of the events. Our volunteer event season lasts from April to October.

Please call Kent Swanson at 452-5200 or email kswanson@cabq.gov to sign up!

Open Space 25th Anniversary Trivia
Test Your Knowledge of the Division's History!

1. What year was the Trail Watch Volunteer program started?
2. Which Open Space area contains the remains of a prison?
3. What federal program did the City take advantage of during the 1960's to obtain surplus BLM land that later became Open Space?
4. Name 4 East Mountain City of Albuquerque Open Space properties.
5. Name the two City of Albuquerque Open Space properties that can be found in Sandoval County.
6. What multi-legged, furry little creatures can be seen traveling across roads and throughout Open Space in and around October?
7. What exotic tree species grows in the bosque and was the tree referenced in the book entitled, "A Tree Grows in Brooklyn"?
8. Name three tree species found in Open Space that are susceptible to mistletoe.
9. What 1839 land grant is associated with the Golden Open Space?
10. Who originally received the Elena Gallegos Land Grant from the King of Spain in 1694?
11. The Tres Pistolas Open Space was originally part of what land grant?
12. What do Albert G. Simms and Diego Montoya have in common?
13. Westland Development Corporation was founded by the heirs of what land grant?
14. Name three movies that were filmed in Open Space areas.
15. Name a grassroots community organization instrumental in assuring the purchase of the Elena Gallegos Grant?
16. True or False? Sandhill Cranes take a new mate every Spring.
17. Which of the following is **NOT** an Open Space "X-file:" A. Sacrificed chickens in the Sandia Foothills; B. The Foothills Coconut Cult; C. The Foothills Potato Suicide Cult; D. Crop Circles at the Hubbell Oxbow; E. The Montessa Hum; F. Chupacabra sightings on the West Mesa; G. Two-headed prairie dogs.

ANSWERS:

1. 1994; 2. Montessa Park; 3. The Land For Recreation and Public Purposes Act; 4. Carolino Canyon, Juan Tomas, Tres Pistolas, Gutierrez Canyon (John A. Milne/Gutierrez Canyon), San Antonio, Golden; 5. Placitas and Golden; 6. Tarrantulas; 7. Tree of Heaven; 8. Juniper, Pinon, Cottonwood; 9. San Pedro; 10. Diego Montoya; 11. Canon de Canuel; 12. They both owned the Elena Gallegos Land Grant; 13. Atrisco; 14. Swing Vote, Terminator 4, Beerfest, No Country for Old Men, Linewatch, The Valley of Elah, Elvis Has Left the Building; 15. The Open Space Task Force, NM Mountain Club, Sierra Club; 16. FALSE, they are monogamous; 17. (G) Two-headed prairie dogs

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, and providing financial support.

For information about our current activities, contact Steve Hamp, OSA Board President, at shamp7@comcast.net, or 247-2523.

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: _____

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> NEW MEMBER | <input type="checkbox"/> \$15 STUDENT (18 & UNDER) / SENIOR | <input type="checkbox"/> \$250 SUSTAINING |
| <input type="checkbox"/> RENEWAL | <input type="checkbox"/> \$20 INDIVIDUAL | <input type="checkbox"/> \$500 CORPORATE |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> \$30 FAMILY | <input type="checkbox"/> \$1000 LIFE MEMBER |

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

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Open Space News

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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
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STAFF & NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTORS

Mayor Martin J. Chávez

Director

Parks & Recreation Department

Jay Lee Evans

Deputy Director

Parks and Recreation Department

Colleen Frenz

Superintendent

Matthew Schmader, Ph.D.

Assistant Superintendent

Tony Barron

Resource Management & Visitor

Services Program Manager

Jim F. Sattler

Operations & Maintenance

Manager

Chris Archuleta

Associate Planners

James Lewis

Kent Swanson (Editor and Layout)

Park Specialist

James Marmon

Environmental Education

Coordinator

Bill Pentler

Manager, Open Space Visitor

Center

Jodi Hedderig

Open Space

Visitor Center Coordinator

Joshua Willis

President

Open Space Alliance

Steven Hamp

HOURS OF OPERATION

OPEN SPACE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES

3615 Los Picaros Rd. SE

7:00 am to 5:00 pm

Monday through Friday

(505)452-5200

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

(505)857-8334

PETROGLYPH NATIONAL MONUMENT BOCA NEGRA CANYON

8:00 am to 5:00 pm, all week

\$1.00 weekdays / \$2.00 weekends

(505)897-8814

OPEN SPACE VISITOR CENTER

6500 Coors Blvd. NW

(505)897-8831

9:00 am to 5:00 pm

Tuesday - Sunday

TO REPORT VIOLATIONS

8:00 am to 6:00 pm, all week

(505) 452-5206 (voice/relay)

OR

242-COPS