



OPEN SPACE

newsletter



Mayor Richard J. Berry

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

Volume 18, Issue 4, October - December 2017

Happy Trails to You: A Thank You to Noel Chilton

Kent Swanson

This September, Noel Chilton left her position as the Environmental Education and Gallery Coordinator at the Open Space Visitor Center to pursue other projects and to travel with her family in Spain. Noel's talents, joyful spirit and enthusiasm will be greatly missed. Her countless contributions include organizing events such as the Recycled Art Fair and Recycled Art mentorship program, and curating dozens of gallery shows. She also worked many hours visiting underserved youth in local schools to share her passion for the environment, public lands, and art, and then bringing those students' artwork to display at the Visitor Center. She also created and hosted the popular summer Explorer's Camp at the Visitor Center for three years, and worked to build a strong environmental community with a variety of partner organizations such as the Valle del Oro and Bosque School. Additionally, Noel's incredible graphic design skills graced every project she was involved in, from designing Visitor Center event posters, to creating playful and dynamic educational displays and exhibits at the OSVC. We will miss her presence and wish her safe travels.



*Noel at the Visitor Center's 10th Anniversary
Photo by Bill Pentler*

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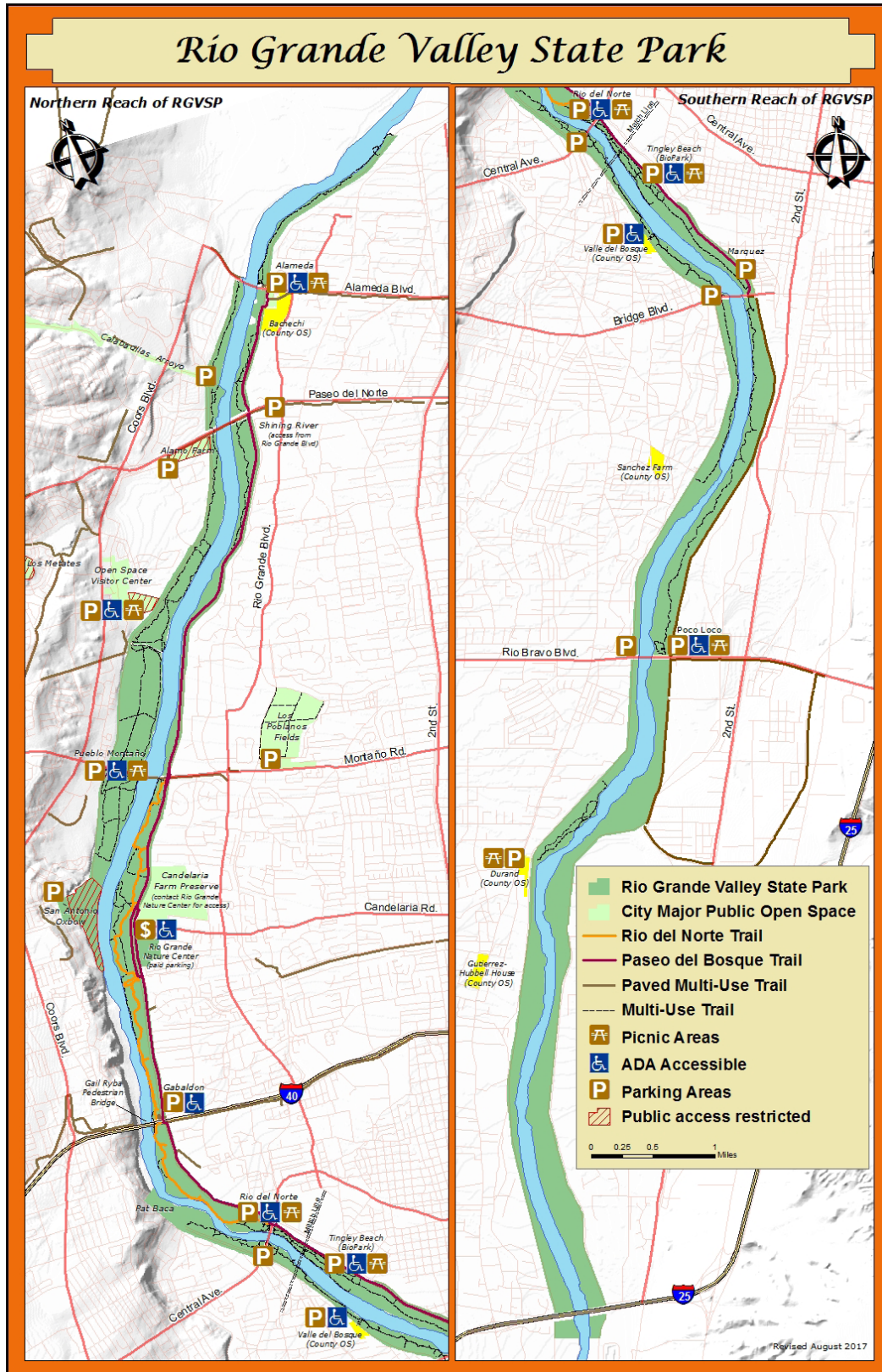
www.cabq.gov/openspace

Follow the Open Space Visitor Center online!



Look for our updated RGVSP map!

Our new Rio Grande Valley State Park Trail Map update includes information on our Open Space Visitor Center, volunteering, and ADA-accessible facilities and trails.



Volunteer!



The Open Space Division and REI invite you to a day of service to help protect and nurture the *bosque* and river, including trail work, revegetation, and trash clean-up. There will be activities appropriate for all ages. Don't forget about the prize drawing at the end of the event! Arrive promptly by 8:30am to sign in and enjoy donated morning snacks. REI also provides free t-shirts to the first 80 to register at <https://www.rei.com/event/dia-del-rio-stewardship-project-with-rei-and-abq-open-space/albuquerque/185274>!

This year's Dia del Rio will take place at the Shining River area of the bosque, which can be reached via Rio Grande Blvd on the south side of Paseo del Norte. Parking is limited so please carpool!

Bring gloves, sun protection, a sack lunch, and plenty of water.

Or, if you have a favorite area of the bosque, you can organize your own clean-up. Call Jim Sattler at (505)452-5213 to sign up and we'll provide the trash bags and haul away the trash!

October 28th, 2017

MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY



Join the Open Space Division, the Nicodemus Wilderness Project, and United Way on October 28th for a national day of community service at the Piedra Lisa Open Space! There will be a variety of projects for all ages, including trail maintenance, trail building, cactus planting, trash clean-up, and graffiti removal. Volunteers should dress in layers, wear sun protection and hiking boots, and bring work gloves.

Come at 8:30am to sign in and indulge in some donated morning snacks!

Volunteers should register with the Center for Nonprofit Excellence at <https://www.centerforprofitexcellence.org/mdd-project/city-albuquerque-open-space-division/2017-9-26>. For more information, contact Jim Sattler at 452-5213 or jsattler@cabq.gov.

Welcome Amanda Romero!

Amanda Romero is the Open Space Division's new Senior Administrative Assistant as of this July; she is the supervisor of all administrative staff, including payroll and accounts payable. This November will mark Amanda's tenth year with the City. Prior to coming to Open Space she worked in the Transit Department in customer service and finance, where she managed payroll for over 600 employees.

Amanda was born and raised in Albuquerque and grew up on the West Side, but didn't realize just how much acreage and variety of lands that Open Space manages. Our East Mountain properties interest her the most, and she's excited to visit and get to know them; her favorite part of working for Open Space is that employees get to explore the outdoors.



Amanda at Montessa Park

Welcome Catherine Montoya!



Catherine at Montessa Park

Open Space welcomes our newest Senior Office Assistant, Catherine Montoya, who also started with us in July. Catherine has worked for the City of Albuquerque for twenty-two years in a number of departments, including Aviation, Animal Control, Family and Community Services, and Senior Affairs; she also worked for the City of Rio Rancho and Albuquerque Public Schools. Her primary duties with the Open Space Division are timekeeping, counting and depositing park fees, and ordering supplies.

Catherine grew up in the North Valley. Like Amanda, she is also excited to visit East Mountain properties, including Golden (clearly a staff favorite) and Carolino Canyon. She was drawn to work for Open Space because she loves nature and the Open Space Visitor Center.

Congratulations to Artimus Mowrer!



Artimus at the Montessa Park administrative office

Open Space congratulates Artimus Mowrer for his promotion to an Equipment Operator II position in September! He has held an Equipment Operator I position for the City Open Space Division for about two years. In his new position, he will care for and maintain more natural areas, including identifying and removing non-native invasive species. Prior to working for Open Space, Artimus worked for Bernalillo County Parks and Recreation doing lawn and park maintenance for about six years.

Artimus grew up in the Los Lunas area. His favorite Open Space properties are the *bosque* and Golden. He was drawn to work for City Open Space because of the Division's mission to preserve the area's natural resources, and he is passionate about working with and restoring what is natural and native.

Welcome George Darling!

George Darling is the newest addition the Open Space Shooting Range on the West Mesa. George became permanent in July but had worked as a temporary employee at the Shooting Range for nearly two years. Prior to that, he worked in IT for about twenty-five years, and was a security guard for five. He also served in the military in both Turkey and Germany. Aside from Rangemaster duties, George helps with IT issues at the Shooting Range.

George is a people person and likes working at the Shooting Range because he gets to interact with a variety of people from all walks of life.

Many people don't realize Open Space manages a Shooting Range; we welcome you to learn more about it and upcoming events on the web at <https://www.cabq.gov/parksandrecreation/open-space/facilities/shooting-range-park>, and stop by to welcome George.



George at the Shooting Range

Explorer Packs at the Visitor Center

Kent Swanson

Children and children at heart are encouraged to stop by the Open Space Visitor Center to check out an Open Space Explorer Pack and experience all the natural wonders we have to offer. The Open Space Division and REI are sponsoring the Explorer Pack project, which is intended to get families outside



Explorer Pack activities at the Visitor Center

and in nature to learn about the plants, animals, and cultural resources found within the lands the City of Albuquerque Open Space Division serves to protect.

Visitors will be able to check out a backpack from the front desk, and use the materials within to have a unique adventure. Each backpack is filled with exciting self-guided activities with themes including flora, fauna, and cultural resources and archeology. A valid picture I.D. is required to check out the packs, which must be returned to the front desk before 4:30pm.

Visitors using the packs can enjoy wildlife viewing areas, wetland and bosque habitats, indoor and outdoor art displays, wildlife fields, archeology exhibits, interpretive gardens, *bosque* trails, and more!

Call 897-8831 to reserve a backpack for a particular time and day.

Mayor Berry's Bosque Youth Summer Corps' Third Consecutive Summer

Matthew Peterson

Seventeen crew members and three crew leaders worked for ten weeks out of their summer as part of Mayor Berry's Bosque Youth Summer Corps. The Bosque Corps helped to beautify the *bosque* by removing hundreds of feet of obsolete barbed-wire fencing, planting hundreds of native *bosque* shrubs, and installing informational signage for visitors to view, amongst completing many other restoration related projects. This year the bulk of the work was performed in the area from Campbell Road north to Montañó Boulevard along the newly constructed ADA accessible, Rio del Norte Trail. The Bosque Corps also participated in a career mentorship component this year, in which professionals from local, state, federal, and non-governmental entities spoke about their respective career fields. Topics ranged from the history of flood control measures in the Rio Grande Valley, to native versus non-native invasive plants in the *bosque*, to participating in an urban park tree inventory case study with New Mexico State Forestry. Mayor Berry stated, "We are cultivating the next generation of stewards to protect and preserve the land for many years to come." This is the third consecutive summer the Bosque Youth Summer Program occurred, creating paying jobs for young men and women willing to take a role of leadership for the summer.



Bosque Youth Summer Corps workers planting trees

Summer Work at the John A. Milne-Gutierrez Canyon Open Space

Jim Sattler

This year the Open Space Division was fortunate to have two Rocky Mountain Youth Corps (RMYC) crews working at the John A. Milne-Gutierrez Canyon Open Space (Milne-Gutierrez OS), one of which was made up of youth from the Albuquerque Sign Language Academy (ASLA). This initiative provided a new opportunity for members of the deaf and hard-of-hearing community to work outdoors in nature. Crew members found the work to be rewarding and worked side by side with members from the non-ASLA crew. Together the crews completed a trail reroute approximately .9 mile long. The new trail was built to Open Space standards and was designed to minimize erosion and maintenance needs. This new section of trail bypasses a user-made trail, a portion of which was in the bottom of an arroyo and subject to flash floods. Other portions were heavily eroded and incised up to four feet deep. After completion of the new trail, the old trail was blocked and prepped for rehabilitation. In addition to the trail reroute, crews also performed maintenance on .75 mile of existing trail.

The RMYC is based out of Taos, New Mexico, with a local Albuquerque program that works out of the Valle del Oro National Wildlife Refuge. The

mission of the RMYC is to “inspire young adults to make a positive difference in themselves and their communities. Through training and service, Corps members discover their potential for healthy, productive lives.” RMYC offers trainings focused on skill building, teamwork and responsibility, leading a healthy lifestyle, and civic engagement and service ethics. Working with local partners like the City of Albuquerque Open Space Division, high school- and college-age youth have the opportunity for experiential learning while providing the community with a valuable service.

This summer marked the third year of collaboration between the City of Albuquerque and the RMYC. Over the course of the last three summers of work at the Milne-Gutierrez OS the RMYC crews have built approximately 2.85 miles of new trail, maintained .75 mile of existing trail, and closed and rehabilitated approximately one mile of eroded, unsustainable trail. Additional trail work by the RMYC has also been done at the Elena Gallegos Picnic Area, Piedra

Lisa Canyon in the Sandia Foothills, and Boca Negra Canyon in the Petroglyph National Monument. This has been a beneficial program for all involved and we celebrate the accomplishments that these hard working youth crews have achieved.



*Rocky Mountain Youth Corps crew building the new trail at Milne Open Space
Photo by Jim Sattler*

Red Ryder Cowboy Rides Off Into Sunset

Jim Sattler

You may not have heard the name Dave Saunders before, but Dave, who passed away on September 6, 2017, at the age of 84, had a unique connection to the Open Space Division. Those of you who are fans of the Rt. 66 Open Space may know that this was the site of the western theme park Little Beaver Town, which was one of many Rt. 66 tourist attractions in the area. Little Beaver Town was the creation of cartoonist Fred Harman and was based on his comic strip *Red Ryder* and its main characters, Red Ryder and his sidekick Little Beaver. The park was only in business for about three years in the early 1960s, but Albuquerque's connection to Red Ryder runs deep. Dave Saunders was a genuine Albuquerque cowboy who played Red Ryder at Little Beaver Town; Saunders grew up driving cattle, riding bulls, and breaking broncos, and was a natural fit as Red Ryder. Saunders continued to portray Red Ryder in dozens of Daisy BB gun commercials, on TV, and at rodeos and fairs throughout the



Red Ryder Comics #19
Dell Comics/Western Publishing; May 1944
Pencils by Fred Harman

west. He continued to bring Red Ryder to life and entertain crowds at the New Mexico State Fair through the 1990s.

Some people may only remember Red Ryder from the movie *A Christmas Story*, in which young Ralphie wants a "Red Ryder, carbine action, two-hundred shot, range model air rifle, with a compass in the stock and this thing that tells time" for Christmas. To which everyone replies that he'll shoot his eye out with it. But a few long-time Albuquerque residents may remember that *Red Ryder* was drawn by Fred Harman, who owned a house in Albuquerque, spent his winters here, and drew his comic strip here from 1938 to 1963. Dave Saunders, Red Ryder, Fred Harman and Little Beaver may have ridden off into the sunset, but America's fascination with the nostalgia of Rt. 66, the West, Native Americans, and cowboys lives on, and visitors can find a little of that history still remains at the Rt. 66 Open Space.



Photo credit: ABQ Museum Photoarchives
Dave Saunders and Troy Vicenti as Red Ryder and Little Beaver, 1961, PA1998.10.10

The Duende Onion

Back to the Drawing Board

Mad scientist Ethan Van Tooten was cited by Open Space Law Enforcement for crimes against nature when his latest experiment went horribly awry. Van Tooten claimed he was trying to produce a new cactus hybrid for trail closures and restoration in the Foothills by creating a cactus hybrid chimera which involved the use of pig embryos. Unfortunately the cactus hybrid refused to stay planted and was last seen rooting around near the base of U Mound and heading north on Trail 401. "I don't understand what could possibly have went wrong," said a sullen Van Tooten.



Local guest contributor to your most reliable source of fake Open Space news

Troll Spotted Under Bridge!

Conspiracy theorist, Nancy Nuttel, contacted 311 to report a troll under the Central Avenue Bridge. "He wouldn't let me pass until I answered his three questions," reported Ms. Nuttel. Upon investigation the troll turned out to be Acting Education Specialist, Rocky Hill, who was stationed along the Paseo del Bosque Trail doing a short visitor use survey. Hill is apparently a graduate of the Daniel Day Lewis School of Interpretation and Method Acting. "I take my job very seriously and spent three months preparing for this survey by living under the Central Avenue Bridge and learning the ways of a troll," said Hill. "Next month I'll be dressed as a late 17th-century female Spanish colonist in order to give presentations in antiquated Spanish about Elena Gallegos to unsuspecting visitors," added Hill.

Map Controversy!

Open Space maps have recently come under scrutiny by a group called the Albuquerque Mappers Peer Education Domain (AMPED). The last meeting of AMPED descended into chaos over whether or not to demand that the Open Space Division have all contours on their maps listed in meters instead of feet. "The Metric system is the way of the future!" declared AMPED member Dave Mercator. "This is America, we don't need any foreign intervention in our maps!" replied AMPED member Aldous Hachure. "You might say this topic is very controversial," commented Education Intern Bob Goosmeyer, who attended the meeting as an agency representative.

Featured Events at the Visitor Center

The Open Space Visitor Center is free and open to the public Tuesday-Sunday, 9am-5pm.



Cosmic Carnival

Saturday, October 21, 1:00 pm- 5:00 pm

The Albuquerque Astronomical Society (TAAS) is sponsoring the fall Cosmic Carnival in collaboration with the City of Albuquerque Open Space Visitor Center. Interactive exhibits with Explora! Science Center, the New Mexico Museum of Natural History & Science, the National Museum of Nuclear Science & History, Sandia National Laboratories, New Mexico Gem and Mineral Club, CNM, the Rio Rancho Astronomical Society (RRAS), the Albuquerque Astronomical Society (TAAS), and the Albuquerque Rocket Society. Other activities include safe viewing of our nearest

star, the Sun, and a telescope discovery and display. There will also be indoor Portable Planetarium shows on the hour! Visit www.taas.org for more information.

Taas Star Party

Saturday, October 21, 6:00pm-9:00pm

The Albuquerque Astronomical Society and the Open Space Visitor Center offer this astronomically fun event for kids of all ages. On the patio: Star and planet observations with telescopes from the Albuquerque Astronomical Society AND constellation tours of the heavens. 7:00pm and at 8:00pm in the Kiva Room: an educational lecture on astronomy will enlighten you about our night sky objects, including stars, constellation and asterisms.

Opening Reception: The Art of Caryl McHarney

Saturday, October 28, 2:00pm-4:00pm

Caryl McHarney creates watercolors, etchings, and serigraphs of cranes to share her observations and interpretations of this majestic creature. The exhibit celebrates cranes and increases awareness of their presence in the Rio Grande Valley. Caryl has shown her work at the Bosque del Apache Festival of Cranes, Wings Over Willcox (AZ), and the Rowe Audubon Sanctuary (NB). The exhibit runs through December 31st.



6500 Coors Blvd NW Albuquerque, NM 87120

between Montañito and Paseo del Norte at the end of Bosque Meadows Rd.

Tuesday - Sunday 9:00 am - 5:00 pm **897-8831**

Open Space Visitor Center on facebook @ABQOpenSpace on twitter

www.cabq.gov/openspace



More Events at the Open Space Visitor Center

Visit www.cabq.gov/openspace for more information

Art in the Gallery: Textile Journeys/Textures of Earth Memory

Ongoing through October 22, 2017

In the Children’s Room: Churro Wool Exhibit

Ongoing through October 22, 2017

Bosque Wild: Guided Nature Walk and Artist Talk

Sunday, October 1, 9:00am –11:00am

Introduction to Composting with Worms (Vermicomposting)

Saturday, October 7, 9:00am –10:30am

Artist Talk with Elizabeth Buckley

Saturday October 7, 11:00am-Noon

Beatrice the Hip Hop Bee: Book Signing and Presentation

Saturday, October 14, 2:00pm-4:00pm.

Qigong and Yoga sessions

Sundays throughout the month



At the Gallery: Work by Cornelia Gardella, Emelie Wilander, and Elizabeth Buckley

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 Glass, OSA Board President, at: president@openspacealliance.org.

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

NAME: _____ DATE: _____

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- TRAILS DAY \$20 INDIVIDUAL \$150 NEIGHBORHOOD \$1000 LIFE MEMBER

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Open Space News

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