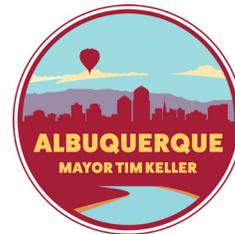


OPEN SPACE

newsletter



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

Volume 20, Issue 2, April - June 2019

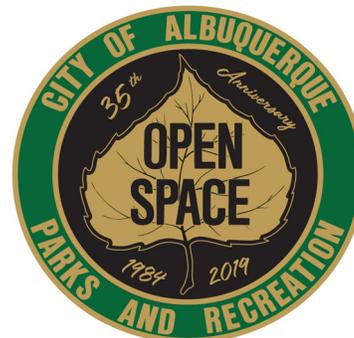
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35th Anniversary Event Guide Now Available!

Albuquerque's Open Space system encompasses the major landscapes that define the City and boasts a diversity of ecosystems, including grasslands, farmlands, volcanic cones, basalt cliffs, arroyos, piñon and juniper woodlands, and

upland forests. In addition to areas within the city such as the Rio Grande Valley State Park, Sandia Foothills, and Petroglyph National Monument, the City of Albuquerque Open Space system includes properties east of the Sandia Mountains and in Sandoval County.



This impressive network of properties, known as Major Public Open Space, enhances the urban environment and provides wildlife habitat while offering opportunities for public enjoyment through outdoor education and low-impact recreation.

Preserving these elements of the City's environment has always been a high priority for Albuquerque's citizens. As a result, we have one of the most ambitious Open Space programs in the country, with nearly 30,000 acres protected as Major Public Open Space. Since 1984, the Open Space Division, part of the City's Parks and Recreation Department, has preserved these lands for the enjoyment of residents and visitors to the area.

This year the Open Space Division proudly celebrates its 35th anniversary by offering a wide array of outdoor public programs, presented in a guide that is now available on our website at cabq.gov/openspace. Events include hikes, presentations, volunteer days, moon rise concerts, youth activities, and much more.

Come out and celebrate your public lands!

Want to go paperless and full color? E-mail Tricia at tkeffer@cabq.gov.

www.cabq.gov/openspace

Follow the Open Space Visitor Center online!

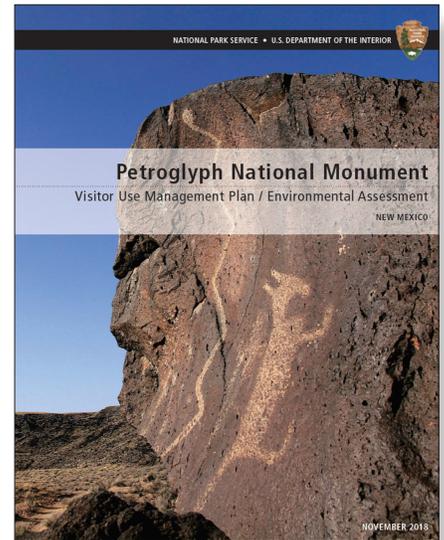


Update on Petroglyph National Monument's Visitor Use Management Plan

The Visitor Use Management Plan for Petroglyph National Monument, a project several years in the making, was approved by the National Park Service's Regional Director in Denver on March 12, 2019.

The plan sets the stage to accomplish several important goals for the monument related to mitigating the effects of public use, including formalizing a trail system and limiting the types of use and access points; this will enable staff to guide future land management in a way that allows them to protect the volcanoes and petroglyphs which make up a landscape sacred to the 29 affiliated pueblos and tribes.

The Open Space Division looks forward to helping implement the Visitor Use Management Plan in the upcoming years. To learn more about the monument and read the adopted Visitor Use Management Plan, visit nps.gov/petr.



Happy Trails, Superintendent Dennis Vásquez!

Petroglyph National Monument Superintendent Dennis Vásquez retired at the end of March after over 40 years with the National Park Service. Superintendent Vásquez's career brought him to some of the most beloved (and local!) national parks across the country. Prior to serving at the monument in Albuquerque, Dennis served as Superintendent at Guadalupe Mountains National Park (Texas), Brown v. Board of Education

National Historic Site (Kansas), Bandelier National Monument (New Mexico), and White Sands National Monument (New Mexico). He also worked at Carlsbad Caverns, Big Bend, the Grand Canyon, Joshua Tree, and Yosemite, among others.



Superintendent Vásquez (right) with Parks & Recreation Associate Director Brandon Gibson and Dale Kissner, Chief of Interpretation for the monument, attending a legislative hearing in Santa Fe in March.

As superintendent of Petroglyph National Monument, Dennis spearheaded the creation of the monument's first adopted Visitor Use Management Plan (see above for more details). Key to the success of this project was collaboration with the Open Space Division and the 29 tribes affiliated with the monument, as well as numerous public meetings to explain the process and gain public input.

It has been a privilege for Open Space staff to work with Superintendent Vásquez. We'd like to congratulate him on such an impressive career, and wish him a happy retirement. See you on the trail, Dennis!

Every Day is Earth Day at Open Space!

Earth Day was first held on April 22, 1970, as a way to urge support for environmental protection in the United States and as a day of action to do something positive for the environment. Today Earth Day is an international event and celebrated in over 190 countries. But here at Open Space every day is Earth Day! We work year round to protect and restore the land we manage. Each year we work with over 3,000 volunteers to plant native shrubs and trees to help restore the Bosque, we build and maintain trails to reduce erosion, and we teach youth and adults about a variety of environmental topics so we can all be better stewards of nature.

Celebrating Earth Day in April is a great way to get involved! There are many local events across the City to consider. You can also start at home by planting a tree or some pollinator plants, or by picking up some trash in your neighborhood.

Of course April is Spring Clean-up Month in Open Space, but if you can't make it out in April then consider some of our other stewardship projects like National River Cleanup Day on May 18th or El Duende's favorite event, National Trails Day on June 1st. Don't forget, you can make every day Earth Day too!

2019 Spring Project Schedule:	March 30 – Route 66 Open Space	April 27 – Piedra Lisa Open Space
	April 6 – Copper Trailhead	May 18 – National River Clean-up
	April 13 – Indian School Trailhead	June 1 – National Trails Day
	April 20 – Menaul Picnic Area	

Registration is required for this year's March and April events. See below for more information.

For more Earth Day activities around the city, visit cabq.gov/earthday.

New Registration Process

You can now register for many Open Space Division activities online, including Nature Walks, volunteer events, Summer Series events and reservation areas at Carolino Canyon and Elena Gallegos.

There is an important FIRST STEP: you must first sign up for a household account at play.cabq.gov. An account lets you view accurate availability information and allows you to register for activities.

If you have an account but need help accessing it, click on the "contact us" link on the website. For questions specific to Open Space events, you can email openspace@cabq.gov or call 452-5202. We are happy to assist with registration for your event once you have an account.

Thank you for exploring the system that more and more City departments are using to provide increased access to City services. We look forward to seeing you in Open Space!



Little known fact: El Duende was on hand for the first Earth Day and helped President Richard Nixon and First Lady Pat Nixon plant a tree at the White House!

Featured Events at the Visitor Center

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

Opening Reception for two Exhibits at the Gallery!

Saturday, April 6, 2019, 2:00pm-4:00pm

"Beautiful Trash"

"Beautiful Trash" is an installation by artists Jessica Dunn, Nan Masland, and Katya Crawford. The project is a place-based work that serves to bring attention to the impacts of littering on our public lands. Trash/litter/refuse was collected near the Open Space Visitor Center by a team of artists and collaborative collectors. The collectors used the ArcGIS Collector app to note the geolocation of the item, the time collected, and other pertinent information. The collected items have been catalogued and transformed into art objects with tags reflecting the geolocation, time collected, and other collector notes. An art map displaying the geographic range of the collection accompanies the art installation. The exhibit runs through May 5, 2019.



"Passages"

In "Passages" artists in Mosaic New Mexico interpret, depict, and proclaim through their work what the Albuquerque part of our riverine world witnesses and has witnessed over time. The inherent vibrancy of mosaics coupled with the passion and the unexpected vision of the artists takes gallery visitors to a moment of wonder, a sharp intake of the breath, and the realization that they now see our Rio Grande in a new light. The beauty and complexity of the mosaic medium well reflect the beauty of nature and can lead to a deeper respect for the natural world. To help promote environmental conservation, artists participating in "Passages" were encouraged to use recycled materials in the works. The exhibit runs through May 12, 2019.

Recycled Art Showcase

Saturday, April 6, 2019, 10:00am-4:00pm

Free!

The Open Space Visitor Center celebrates recycling and upcycling with the art installation "Beautiful Trash" and the Tony Hillerman Middle School "Art Car." Share your love of Mother Earth and be inspired by what these remarkable artists have done with ordinary "trash." Meet the artists behind "Beautiful Trash" Jessica Dunn, Katya Crawford, and Nan Masland from 2pm-4pm. The "Art Car" will be on display from 10am-4pm in the Visitor Center parking lot.



Trail Watch Volunteer Training

Saturday, May 11, 2019, 9:00am-12:00pm

Are you a walker, hiker, equestrian or bicyclist who would like to have your observations assist in the overall protection of Open Space lands? Can you picture yourself spending a couple of hours each week at the Open Space Visitor Center, a gentle retreat within the city limits? Become part of the community of Open Space and lend your talents in any number of ways from special events, to education, interpretation, gardening, publicity, trail maintenance and more.

Space is limited. Please call 897-8831 to register.



Poets Picnic

Saturday, May 25, 2019, 9:00am-5:00pm

A day of art, music, and poetry on the lovely grounds of the Open Space Visitor Center overlooking farmland, the Rio Grande's bosque and the Sandia Mountains! Albuquerque's calligraphy society *Escribiente*, the New Mexico Book Arts Guild *Libros*, the New Mexico State Poetry Society (NMSPS), the Open Space Alliance, and dozens of local poets have come together for this unique art exhibit and day of spoken word poetry.

Pollination Celebration with Bee City USA

Saturday, June 15, 2019, 4:00pm-7:30pm

Free!

The Pollination Celebration is an annual celebration of Open Space and all the pollinators that support wildlife habitat and food systems. Activities include live music, kids' crafts, demonstration bee hives, honey sales, local vendors, activity tables and more!



See www.cabq.gov/openspace for a full list of activities and other opportunities to enjoy your Open Space!

About the Open Space Visitor Center: *The Open Space Visitor Center is an interpretive hub for the Open Space program, lands, and resources. Visitors enjoy educational exhibits, art displays, wildlife fields, a Traditions garden, Bosque trails, and a variety of talks, workshops, demonstrations and entertainment.*

The Open Space Visitor Center is located at 6500 Coors Blvd. NW between Montañño Rd. and Paseo del Norte at the end of Bosque Meadows Rd. The Center is open Tuesday through Sunday, 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM and closed Mondays. Call 897-8831 for more information or visit www.cabq.gov/openspace.

35th Anniversary Adventure HIKES

The Open Space Division manages nearly 30,000 acres of Major Public Open Space, and chances are you have not explored them all. These guided hikes, in celebration of the 35th Anniversary, will give you an opportunity to discover some of the less traveled sites.



Golden Open Space
March 24 9 a.m.
Golden Open Space is located in Sandoval County just north of Cedar Crest and features spectacular vistas, fascinating rock formations, and rich history. This is a strenuous hike.

Route 66 Open Space
April 28 9 a.m.
Route 66 Open Space is located in the Four Hills area. Hikers will explore the Tijeras Arroyo and reminisce about Little Beaver Town, the historic theme park that was once located on the property. This is a moderate to strenuous hike.

Placitas Open Space
September 15 9 a.m.
Placitas Open Space consists of 560 acres of rolling hills, arroyos, and a portion of Las Huertas Creek. The creek is ephemeral and flows after heavy rains or good snow melt. This is a moderate to strenuous hike.

Mesa Prieta Open Space
October 13 9 a.m.
Mesa Prieta is located at the south end of the Petroglyph National Monument. Hikers will explore the Rio Grande style and Archaic style petroglyphs, as well as the local geology and plants. This is a moderate to strenuous hike.

For information: www.cabq.gov/openspace
 (505) 452-5200 • 311 • TTY 711 • openspace@cabq.gov
 To register, create an account at play.cabq.gov

It's almost time for the Summer Series!

Join us this summer for another round of our Summer Series, and enjoy a performance every Saturday evening as you watch the sunset from the Foothills! We are excited to bring back some fan favorites: the Hongell-Darsees performing traditional Ballads, folk music from Cheap Shots and The Ladyfingers, steel drums and marimba from Sol Calypso, and jazz from Last Call.

Then bring out your adventurous side on Sundays, when we explore some of our more obscure properties (details on right). Sundays will also feature a variety of topics including herbalism hikes with Dara Saville, history of Little Beaver Town, First-Aid, and Qi-Gong.

The Summer Series will kick off May 25th, with a campfire dedication to 35 years of Open Space history, filled with tales from the past and ideas for the future! Our closing Sunday will be August 25th with our community favorite, Mindful Meditation with Sifu Dug.

Family Nature Walks

Join us for a series of family-friendly nature walks that are appropriate for all ages, and give opportunities for families to connect with nature and over several walks that vary in difficulty from easy to moderate.

Learn how to use binoculars, loupes, and field guides!

All hikes begin and end at the Open Space Visitor Center, 6500 Coors Boulevard NW, at 10:00am and last two hours. Limited transportation is provided.

Participants must create accounts and register for each event at play.cabq.gov. See page 3 for more information on this new online registration process.

Dates:

April 19th May 23rd October 11th November 27th



A View With Room

Open Space:



Top: A coyote captured on a game camera in Open Space

Right: A snowy day at Elena Gallegos (Photo by Jonathan Donovan)

Bottom: Sunset at the Volcanoes at Petroglyph National Monument



Have a photo of Open Space you'd like to share with the community? E-mail Tricia at tkeffer@cabq.gov.

STAFF CHANGES

Happy Trails, Nate!

Nathan Todd, Associate Planner for the Open Space Division since July 2016, moved on to his next adventure in January to explore South America and take Brazil by storm with his stand-up comedy (volunteers at last year's National Trails Day may remember his Poopacabra sock puppet routine, right). One of his goals while



traveling is to research South American Duendes to see how they compare with our Open Space Duendes.

Nate worked on many projects at Open Space, but one of his main focuses was our farms: Nate worked with

our contracted farmers to improve things like irrigation efficiency, and each year worked with local agencies to secure water rights for the farms. Nathan was also responsible for soliciting donations from local businesses for our annual projects; he especially enjoyed securing the coffee donations for each event.

Open Space staff will miss the flair he brought to the office every day. Good luck and happy trails, Nate!



Congratulations, Artimus!

Artimus Mowrer, formerly an Equipment Operator II, was recently promoted to the position of Heavy Equipment Operator for the Bosque Reclamation crew. Artimus's work ethic, ability to safely operate heavy equipment amongst the general public, and knack for seeing a job and doing it made him the ideal candidate for this promotion. Artimus has been with the Open Space Division now for 3.5 years, embracing the mission of Open Space each step of the way.

Congratulations on your promotion and thank you for all your hard work for Open Space, Artimus!

Historic Public Lands Package Passed!

Open Space and Petroglyph National Monument staff celebrated with Senator Martin Heinrich at a New Mexico Wild event commemorating the passage of the recent public lands package. The package included permanent authorization of the Land and Water Conservation Fund, the protection of 273,000 acres of New Mexico lands as wilderness areas, and the Every Kid Outdoors Act.

Our thanks for everyone's hard work to get this passed!



Do you or a loved one suffer from psychoterratica?



Open Space has the cure!

Do you feel depressed or moody when you're stuck inside, especially when you have to attend a lot of work meetings? Does too much time behind a computer make you feel like a zombie? Does your blood pressure and your anxiety level rise when you are trapped in the stressful rat race of our daily lives? If so, you may be suffering

from *psychoterratica*. But have no fear; Open Space is here to help! The word *psychoterratica* was recently coined by Australian sustainability professor Glenn Albrecht and refers to the disconnection of humans from nature, and the negative impact that this disconnect has on our mental health.

There have been many studies showing that nature has a positive impact on our physical and mental states, while time away from nature has the opposite effect. A study conducted by physician Robert Ulrich compared two sets of patients who were recovering from surgery. One group had a view of trees and the other group had the view of only a wall. The patients with the view of the trees recovered faster, felt less pain, and had a more positive outlook than those who had the view of the wall.

Other studies have shown that time spent in nature has a soothing effect on us and reverses the stress, depression and other negative feelings that *psychoterratica* can have on us. Many visitors to Open Space know that hiking, mountain biking and horseback riding are healthy forms of exercise, but even just sitting down in Open Space or just looking at it from the parking lot a of a trailhead can also have mental and physical benefits.

So if the winter snow and rain has kept you from getting outside, now is the time for a healthy dose of Open Space! If you need an extra push to get outside, look for exciting and healthy events in Open Space starting now with our Spring Clean-ups. Come out and join the happy, healthy and smiling Open Space staff and find out why they say "vis medicatrix naturae."

El Duende Onion

New River Clean-up Lunch Sponsor Announced

Andy Trigenta, the assistant to the Assistant Superintendent, announced that this year's River Clean-up lunch will be sponsored by Arroyo Seco Sushi, a new eatery located near Old Town. Arroyo Seco Sushi specializes in southwest-style sushi, locally sourced from carp and catfish sustainably fished from the riverside drains in the Albuquerque area. "You have to try it, everything's better with chile on it," Trigenta commented.



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

Film Business Benefitting the Open Space and Open Space Alliance

Albuquerque's film industry has been on a roll this year with many films using Open Space areas for set locations. Many of the productions using Open Space have made generous donations to the Open Space Alliance which then uses the funds to help the Open Space Division with educational and volunteer programs. Recently Quentin Tarantino was so impressed with his experience filming in Open Space that he also wrote, directed, and produced a free promotional film for Open Space starring Samuel L. Jackson called "10 Reasons to Keep Your Dog on a Leash." The film premiered at the Open Space Visitor Center in March to kick off Spring Clean-up in the Foothills. Art Appreciation Teacher Andre Varhola stated, "I suppose it wasn't very family-friendly, but hindsight is always 20/20."

Park Attendant Saves Bird From Kite-Eating Tree

Fifth grader Charles Brown was flying his kite in a grassy area of the Bosque south of I-40 on April 2nd, when a gust of wind blew the kite into a "kite-eating tree." Charles then watched in horror as a young Ladder Back Woodpecker got tangled in the kite string and couldn't get free. Charles eventually contacted the Elena Gallegos Picnic Area and reported the situation to Park Attendant Jerry Mahoghany who was able to climb the tree and free both the kite and the woodpecker. The woodpecker has since imprinted on Mahoghany and spends hours sitting on his shoulder. "It's very cute and park visitors get a kick out of it. The only problem is every now and then he pecks me in the head. I'm not sure what to make of that," said Mahoghany.

About the Open Space Alliance



The Open Space Alliance is a non-profit organization that works closely with the Open Space Division to help design and promote a wide range of programs and initiatives that educate the public while increasing awareness and conservation of Open Space lands. The OSA is an avenue for individuals, families and groups to become stewards of Albuquerque Open Space. We will be sponsoring some special events to commemorate the 35th Anniversary including:

OSA fundraiser at Panera Bread in Holly Plaza, Saturday, May 18th, from 4-8pm. Please put this on your calendars!

Bosque Brewing special beer to celebrate the 35th Anniversary with a portion of the sales benefitting the OSA, scheduled for a July release.

Holiday card fundraiser featuring photos of the Open Space by local photographers.

Volunteer clean-up of the Bosque trail adopted by the OSA. Date to be announced.

A special thank you to Bosque Brewing for hosting a Spring Clean-up kickoff at their Nob Hill tap room on Saturday, March 23rd, and to the folks who came to support it!

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, visit openspacealliance.org, or 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 \$15 STUDENT (18 & UNDER) \$30 FAMILY \$250 SUSTAINING
- RENEWAL \$15 SENIOR \$50 FRIEND OF OSA \$500 BUSINESS
- TRAILS DAY \$20 INDIVIDUAL \$150 NEIGHBORHOOD \$1000 LIFE MEMBER

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Open Space Division

P.O. Box 1293

Albuquerque, NM 87103



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3615 Los Picaros Rd. SE
8:00 am to 4:30 pm
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(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
per car*

BOCA NEGRA CANYON

PETROGLYPH NATIONAL MONUMENT
8:30 am to 4:30 pm, all week
\$1.00 weekdays / \$2.00 weekends
per car*

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6500 Coors Blvd. NW
(505) 897-8831
9:00 am to 5:00 pm
Tuesday - Sunday

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242-COPS

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\$30.00