

OPEN SPACE newsletter



Mayor Richard J. Berry

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

Volume 17, Issue 4, October - December 2016

Open Space Visitor Center Celebrates Tenth Anniversary

by Kent Swanson, OSVC Manager

On September 17th, the Open Space Visitor Center celebrated its tenth anniversary of opening to the public. Over 500 people attended the event, which included presentations by Lee Gamelsky Architects, the original designer of the award-winning facility; Jodi Hedderig, Open Space Visitor Center Manager from 2006-2015; and Matt Schmader, City of Albuquerque Open Space Superintendent. People who came for the day enjoyed new interpretive garden tiles created by artists Patricia Halloran and Cirrelda Snider-Bryan, children's activities designed by Noel Chilton, a giant puppet parade, unique items for sale in the Open Space Alliance's gift shop, and a rattle-making workshop by Gregg and Xavier Analla. There was great food provided by the Döner Kebab food truck, and live music to be had as well. The Voces de Coronado Children's Choir, Pawn Drive, Last Call, and the Tumbleweeds made appearances on the outdoor patio, and filled the air with joyous music to celebrate the occasion. The spirit of community was truly remarkable.

A special treat for the Open Space community was a visit from Reba Roberson, who along with her husband Coda, were the original owners of the property where the Visitor Center and wildlife fields are now located.

The story of the Open Space Visitor Center began in the 1980s. The City of Albuquerque purchased the land when development threatened the 1000-room *Piedras Marcadas* adobe pueblo site south of Paseo del Norte and

(continued on next page)



Above: Open Space Division Superintendent Dr. Matthew Schmader leads visitors to tour Piedras Marcadas

Below: Local folk and Americana band Pawn Drive performs on the patio

Photos by Bill Pentler





From left: James Lewis, Open Space Assistant Superintendent; Reba Roberson, original owner of Visitor Center property; Charlie Wood, Volunteer Extraordinaire; and Kent Swanson, OSVC Manager

Photo by Bill Pentler

(Anniversary, continued from page 1)

east of Coors Boulevard. It was then incorporated into the Petroglyph National Monument at its creation in 1990. In 1997, Albuquerque's citizens approved a ¼ cent tax increase that raised about \$36 million dollars and allowed for the purchase of the home of Coda and Reba Roberson, just south of the *Piedras Marcadas* pueblo site. After ten years of planning and construction, the Open Space Visitor Center officially opened to the public in September of 2006. For ten years, the Visitor Center has celebrated "Connecting People to Place," with special events like the Return of the Sandhill Cranes Celebration, the Recycled Art Fair, workshops, arts and crafts, classes, film screenings, service projects, rotating exhibits in the Open Space Gallery, and much more.

Many thanks to Open Space Visitor Center staff Noel Chilton and Kim Selving, and all the volunteers who helped with the preparations for the big day and with the days' activities. Also a huge thank you to the Open Space Alliance for sponsoring the event and to Pop Fizz for donating 150 popsicles that kept our participants refreshed on the warm late summer day.

The staff of the Open Space Division look forward to all the exciting things to come in the future, as we continue to improve and enhance this unique space that serves as the nexus of art, the environment, and culture for the Albuquerque community.

Spotlight on Open Space

New Mexico Magazine recently highlighted Open Space lands in an article titled "Albuquerque, Naturally," in its July edition. According to the author, "When it comes to places to luxuriate in fresh air and nature in an urban environment, the Duke City is hard to beat." She offers her take on the Best Hiking Hot Spot (Golden Open Space) and Best Walking-Distance Waterfall (Piedra Lisa), among others. Visit the website at www.nmmagazine.com to read the full article.



Volunteers construct a trail in Golden Open Space, October 2015

Photo by Bill Pentler

FALL EVENTS AT THE OPEN SPACE VISITOR CENTER (OSVC)

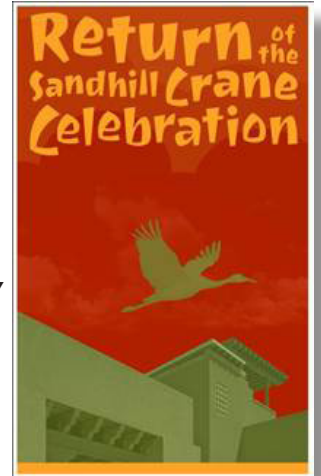
October



November

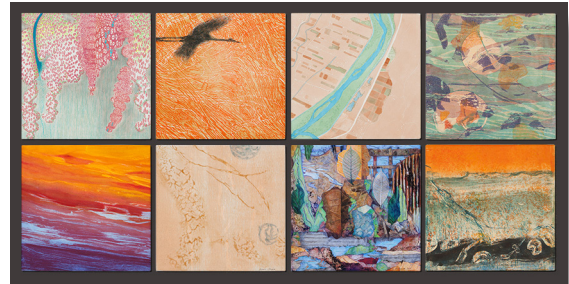
Save the date!
Return of the Sandhill Crane Celebration
Saturday, November 12
9:00 am-5:00 pm
FREE!

Featuring presentations, children's activities, viewing scopes, crafts, workshops, and more.



Gallery Exhibits

Undercurrents, through November 27



Eight local artists interpret and respond to Open Space lands, inspiring an exchange of ideas about our environment and sparking discussion about its conservation and stewardship.

Winter Solstice Mandala Creation December 18

Each December, the OSVC hosts the creation of a Mandala made of different kinds of grains and seeds. Volunteers contribute to the design and build the Mandala. More details upcoming on website or at (504)897-8831.

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



Volunteers Really Clean Up

From March through early June almost 400 volunteers participated in stewardship projects on Open Space properties. These projects included National Trails Day, National River Cleanup and Spring Cleanup and trail maintenance days in the Sandia foothills (Route 66, Copper, Menaul, Indian School, and Piedra Lisa areas). Participation varied from 31 volunteers at Route 66 to 110 at the National River Cleanup. Here are some of the highlights!



Volunteers at Piedra Lisa Spring Cleanup

Photo by Bill Pentler

Things cleaned up:

172 pounds of dog poop, 10 cubic yards of trash (and a half trash compactor from National River Cleanup Day!), 4½ bags of aluminum, 15½ bags of mixed recyclables, 8 car tires, 38 gallons of broken glass, and 8+ concentrations of graffiti.

Other work accomplished:

1.8 miles of trail maintained, 700 feet of new trail constructed, 5 area closed/trail closed signs installed, 1 foot bridge repaired, 3 trail signs replaced, 5 new trail signs installed, 1 illegal campsite cleaned up, 100s of cactus cuttings planted for trail closures, 2 sections of fence installed and repaired, and another 11 miscellaneous trail maintenance and restoration projects completed.

Found items of interest:

Mini cowboy boot, 1986 NM license plate, can of Gold Temptation body spray, hunting arrow, magic wand, Hank Aaron Atlanta Braves jersey, electric capacitor, ½ bottle of lighter fluid, 7 golf balls, kids' flip flops, railroad spike, old metal cleated shoe, 5 bottles of beer, headless toy soldier, circular saw, belt buckle, sewing gauge, bouquet of flowers with plastic frog, and softball batting helmet.

We would like to thank our volunteers, whose hard work makes maintaining our city's Open Space possible.

The Duende's National Trails Day Onion

National Trails Day Lunch Catered by Petri Dishes

Petri Dishes, a new downtown eatery, has offered to cater this year's National Trails Day lunch. Tom Petri, owner of Petri Dishes, was happy to offer his services to our hard-working volunteers this year. "Our chef is amazing, you wouldn't believe what he has created in Petri Dishes," said Tom.

Massage Therapist Accused of Using Excessive Force

Volunteer Judy Sciatica filed a complaint with the Open Space Division about massage therapist, Alyssa Minkey, who was donating her time at the National Trails Day Celebration held at the Elena Gallegos Picnic Area on June 4th. When asked about the nature of the complaint, Ms. Sciatica replied, "She was just really getting on my nerves." In her defense, Alyssa Minkey commented, "That Sciatica is a big pain!"



National Trails Day prize for hardest-working duendecita

Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities



DÍA del RÍO
October 15th, 2016



For more information:

Call (504)452-5213,
TTY: 711
or see
www.cabq.gov/openspace

The City of Albuquerque Open Space Division invites 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!**

WHEN: Saturday, October 15th, 8:30 AM - 1:00 PM. Arrive promptly at 8:30am to sign in and enjoy donated morning snacks.

WHERE: In the bosque south and west of Tingley Beach. See www.cabq.gov for more information. Parking is limited so PLEASE CARPOOL!

REGISTER: The first 80 people to pre-register will receive a FREE T-SHIRT the day of the event, courtesy of REI! Please register at www.rei.com/albuquerque or call 247-1191.

BRING: Gloves, sun protection, a sack lunch, and plenty of water. Donated morning snacks are provided.



ORGANIZE YOUR OWN CLEANUP:



Do you have a favorite area of the *bosque* you'd like to clean up during Dia del Rio? Call 505.452.5213 to sign up and we'll provide the trash bags and haul away the trash!

Make A Difference Day

Saturday, October 22nd

Make A Difference Day is a national day of community service held annually at the end of October. Open Space partner with the Nicodemus Wilderness Project to organize a variety of projects that take place at the Piedra Lisa Open Space at the end of Candelaria. Projects include trail maintenance, trail building, trash cleanup, graffiti removal, etc. Trail tools, equipment, and water are provided. Volunteers should dress in layers, wear sun protection and hiking boots, and bring work gloves.

Volunteers should register with the Center for Nonprofit Excellence at www.centerforprofitexcellence.org/volunteer-connection. For more information please call 452-5200 or email jsattler@cabq.gov.



A triumphant volunteer at last year's Make A Difference Day

Photo by Bill Pentler

Open Space Alliance raises money with Run for the Hills

By Steven Glass and Ellen Burgess, Open Space Alliance

The non-profit Open Space Alliance (OSA) partnered with TCR Productions to host its first ever fundraising event, the foot race known as Run for the Hills, held August 21 on Embudo Canyon Open Space trails. Over 50 volunteers helped on race day, arriving as early as 5:30am to help with all aspects of the race. Not only did we have fantastic volunteers, but The North Face was our title sponsor, providing their store location for packet pickup along with some great swag and a cash donation. Nearly 200 runners competed in the chip-timed event, which featured 10K and 5K competitive trail runs and a 1K fun run for kids. OSA is delighted to report that not only did the event break even, but we cleared over \$650! These funds will directly support Open Space Division projects, events and facility improvement initiatives. Thank you to Open Space staff for input and support regarding the event permitting and promotion. Planning has already started for next year's Run for the Hills. We will use our rookie experience to make the 2017 race bigger and better! Assistance is needed in all aspects of planning – please contact current board president Steve Glass if you are interested.



Runners at Embudo Canyon

Photo by Open Space Alliance

Pick up your ABQ Park Passport!

ABQ PARKPASS

Your Neighborhood, Your Park, Go Play!



The City of Albuquerque wants to reward visitors of City Parks and Open Space this fall. Anyone completing ten of the thirty-six activities identified by the Parks and Recreation department will receive a pair of earbuds; those who complete twenty will be entered into a drawing to win a hot air balloon ride for two, a weekend ski/snowboard rental, two Live Nation concert tickets, a two-hour pool party rental at West Mesa Aquatic Center, a \$50 gift certificate to Cooperage, or a \$25 gift certificate to Scarpas. To get credit, participants will either receive a sticker for their passports from staff at the facility or post a photo on social media and tag #AbqParkPass.

There are activities across the city for all ages; Open Space events and locations include the Full Moon Concert at the Visitor Center, Petroglyph National Monument, the shooting range, Maloof Airfield, the Bosque Trail, hiking at Elena Gallegos, and disc golf at Montessa Park.

The ABQ Park Pass runs from October 1-31st. Pick up passes at Jerry Cline Tennis Center, any indoor City pool, the Open Space Visitor Center, or Parks and Recreation headquarters at 1801 4th Street, or print at home from www.cabq.gov/parksandrec-recreation/abqparkpass. Return passes to Jerry Cline, West Mesa Aquatic Center, or at 1801 4th Street by November 7th.

The Maize Maze returns!

*Weekends in October
at the Rio Grande Community Farm.
Visit riograndefarm.org for details.*



Changes at Open Space

Open Space has seen quite a few changes this year, with folks coming, going, and moving within the Division.

We would like to send some fond farewells to several familiar faces. Jim Marmon, Park Attendant Supervisor; Jolynn Maestas, Open Space Volunteer Coordinator; and Eileen Armijo, Open Space Dispatcher are all enjoying retirement. Congratulations to Marty Sprunk, Open Space Dispatcher, and Sarah Browne, Associate Planner, on your career moves!

We'd also like to congratulate staff members who have moved to new positions within Open Space: Kent Swanson, former Associate Planner, is now the Visitor Center Manager; Jim Sattler, previously the Resource Management and Visitor Services Supervisor was promoted to Assistant Superintendent; he replaced Mark Chavez, who is now the Superintendent of Park Management; and Raymond Gomez, who was promoted to a General Maintenance Worker position.

Finally, we'd like to welcome our new employees, Jacquelyn Rice, Stock Keeper; and Nathan Todd and Tricia Keffer, both Associate Planners.

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: _____

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

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

Open Space News

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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
 per car
 (505)857-8334

PETROGLYPH NATIONAL MONUMENT BOCA NEGRA CANYON

8:00 am to 5:00 pm, all week
 \$1.00 weekdays / \$2.00 weekends
 per car
 (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

Open Space Alliance

P.O. Box 91265
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