



OPEN SPACE newsletter



Mayor Timothy M. Keller

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

Volume 19, Issue 2, April - June 2018

Parks and Recreation welcomes Director David Simon!

Brandon Gibson

On March 5th, the City of Albuquerque's Parks and Recreation Department welcomed our new Director, Mr. David Simon. Mr. Simon comes to the Department after serving as Executive Director of the Jewish Community Center of Greater Albuquerque since 2012.



Director David Simon, the new Director of Parks and Recreation

The Open Space Division is very excited about the new Director's strong conservation background. Mr. Simon was Director of New Mexico State Parks (2003-2010), Assistant Commissioner at the New Mexico

State Land Office (2002), and has sixteen years of experience with the nonprofit National Parks Conservation Association.

Mr. Simon is also a past Chair of the City of Albuquerque Open Space Advisory Board, former Rio Grande Chapter Director for the Sierra Club, a former Board member of the New Mexico Parks and Recreation Association, and President of Eco Think LLC, a nature/outdoors-focused consulting practice.



*Director Simon digs in at a volunteer trail day in the Foothills
Photo by Bill Pentler*

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

www.cabq.gov/openspace

Follow the Open Space Visitor Center online!



Ahhh spring! When a young Duende's fancy lightly turns to thoughts of trail maintenance...

Spring is always a busy time in Open Space. Visitation at all of our facilities goes up as the weather gets nicer. This year's mild winter has meant that visitation never really tapered off. Visitation at the Elena Gallegos Picnic Area has consistently set new monthly records throughout 2017, with an annual visitation jump of over 22,000 people between 2016 and 2017. Increased visitation means an increased impact on our natural resources, and spring is a great time for staff and volunteers to work together to address those impacts. Please consider joining us for one of our annual spring projects and help make a difference in your favorite Open Space area.

March 31 – Route 66 Open Space Cleanup

April 7 – Copper Cleanup

April 14 – Indian School Cleanup

April 21 – Menaul Cleanup

April 28 – Piedra Lisa Open Space Cleanup

May 12 or 19 – National River Cleanup (date to be determined; check our website for updates)

June 2 – National Trails Day at the Elena Gallegos Picnic Area

Remember that parking is limited, so please carpool. Groups of five or more should register. Contact Jim Sattler at jsattler@cabq.gov for more information.

National Trails Day 2018

Celebrate the 50th anniversary of the National Trails Systems Act by joining us for National Trails Day at the Elena Gallegos Picnic Area on June 2nd! The National Trails System Act was signed by President Lyndon Johnson on October 2nd, 1968. This act established the Appalachian Trail and the Pacific Crest Trail, and also established four types of trails: National Scenic Trails, National Historic Trails, National Recreation Trails, and Connecting or Side Trails. The intent of this act was to promote outdoor recreation and preserve access to the

natural and historic resources of our country. The City of Albuquerque proudly manages three designated National Recreation Trails: the Carolino Canyon Nature Trail (managed by the Open Space Division!), The Paseo del Bosque Trail (different sections managed by the City's Open Space Division, the City's Park Management Division, and Bernalillo County Parks and Recreation Department) and the Paseo del Nordeste Trail (managed by the Park Management Division).



Help us celebrate all the benefits our national and local trails have to offer by participating in National Trails Day. This year's theme is "Finding Your Trail." Of course you can find your trail in Open Space! Registration is required and can be done through our sponsor REI. Online registration should be active by the beginning of May. Here at Open Space we celebrate trails and nature all year round, so even if you can't attend National Trails Day there are always other opportunities to get involved. Please check our website for details. You can also visit www.trails50.org to learn more about the National Trails System.

Bosque Clean-up at Rio Bravo Riverside Picnic Area

Jim Sattler

Thank you to Jessica Norez and her friends from ARLA (Asocacion Pro-Rescate Lago Atitlan, which translates to Association Pro-rescue Lake Atitlan) who organized a Bosque cleanup at Rio Bravo Riverside Picnic Area! ARLA was originally founded in Santiago Atitlan, Guatemala, by the local congregation of Iglesia de Jesucristo Palabra Miel, to clean up a dying lake. ARLA groups around the world strive to take care of and help the environments where ever their members may be. You can join Jessica and others by organizing a cleanup in your favorite Open Space area by calling 452-5200.



The ARLA and Open Space crew in the Bosque

Birthday Trash Bash in the Foothills

Jim Sattler



Lelia (first row, third from the right, holding the boot) and her friends at her Birthday Trash Bash

Lelia Yane celebrated her 11th birthday by organizing a trash cleanup with her friends in the Sandia Foothills Open Space. Lelia rounded up twelve of her friends and four adults, and together they picked up enough trash to fill up the bed of a pickup truck. Some of the trash included a large swimming pool cover and lots of foam rubber cushions. Lelia and her friends also cleaned up two five-gallon buckets of broken glass and a bag of mixed recyclables. Happy Birthday Lelia, and thank you for cleaning up Open Space!

If you would like to get involved and organize a cleanup in your favorite Open Space please contact Jim Sattler at jsattler@cabq.gov.

Employee of the Year 2017

Jim Sattler



El Duende, usually spotted in more natural settings, made a special trip to the administrative office at Montessa Park to present Tricia's plaque.

Congratulations to Associate Planner Tricia Keffer on being chosen the Open Space Division's Employee of the Year for 2017! Tricia has been working with the Open Space Division since August 2016 and immediately hit the trail running. Tricia excels at the tasks she undertakes and has proven to be a great asset to the Division. Some of the projects that she has contributed to include trail planning, resource management planning, GIS work, updating the Open Space website, editing the Open Space Newsletter, and assisting with the Open Space Advisory Board. Tricia is always willing to help her coworkers, and above all, Tricia has an outstanding attitude and enthusiasm. Congratulations Tricia!

Local Student Wins National Award and Honors

Bill Pentler

The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards chooses two youth volunteers from each state who have accomplished outstanding acts in their communities as representatives at a gathering of all honorees in Washington D.C.

Lily Chacon, a seventh grader at Holy Ghost Catholic School, won this honor by writing an essay about cleanups, tree plantings, and trail and restoration service projects she has been involved with in the Rio Grande *bosque* and elsewhere in the Albuquerque Open Spaces. According to Lily, "Service has always motivated me, inspired me, and helped me come up with ideas for projects."

David Tichnell, a teacher at the school, has been arranging and taking part in these outings almost every month of the school year for more than fifteen years. Please join us in celebrating and applauding Lily, her classmates, and their instructor's work and accomplishments in helping us maintain our lands.



Lily and Bill during a pole planting in the bosque

Featured Events at the Visitor Center

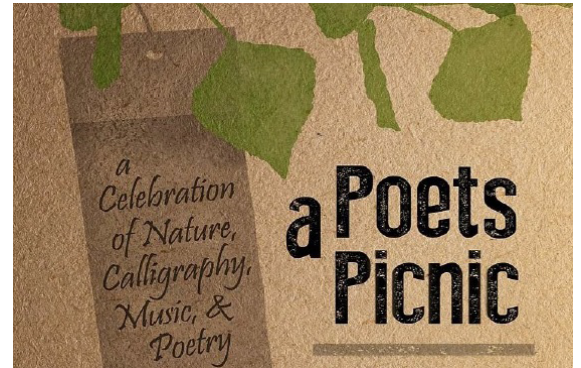
The Open Space Visitor Center is free and open to the public Tuesday-Sunday, 9am-5pm.

A Poets Picnic

Saturday, May 26th, 2018

Join the Open Space Visitor Center for a day of art, music, and poetry on the lovely grounds of the Open Space Visitor Center, overlooking 18 acres of farmland, the Rio Grande's *bosque* and the Sandia Mountains!

This will be a joyous event with Albuquerque's calligraphy society *Escribiente*, the New Mexico State Poetry Society, LIBROS, the Open Space Alliance and local poets in a celebration of art, nature, and poetry, with a special musical performance by Albuquerque's own B  b   La La. Bring a picnic lunch and spend a day with some of New Mexico's most talented poets and calligraphers in a stunning outdoor setting! Drinks and light refreshments are available to purchase. The event is FREE!



Poets Picnic Chapbook Sales

Escribiente, and LIBROS will produce a limited number of Poets Picnic chapbooks, available for \$10 the day of the Picnic. Proceeds will go toward the Open Space Alliance.

Activities include:

- *Escribiente* members will illustrate over 150 poems written by local poets and hang them on trees throughout the grounds of the Visitor Center in the form of weathergrams, or "weather writings" as a temporary art installation.
- Haiku Workshop in the conference room and in the garden.
- *Escribiente* calligraphy demonstrations.
- Poetry readings in the afternoon.

Featured poets include:

Dorothy Alexander, Jesse Ehrenberg, Scott Wiggerman, Tina Carlson, Dale Harris, and John Macker and others.



Burque Bee City and Pollination Celebration!

Sunday, June 16th, 2018, 8:30am-2:00pm

Join the City of Albuquerque Open Space Visitor Center and Bee City USA for a celebration of pollinators! Kick off National Pollinator Week 2018 (June 18th-24th) with this free event for all ages.

Activities include kids' crafts, honey sales, informational booths about bees and other pollinators, live musical performances and more! Check the Open Space website soon for a full list of Pollination Celebration activities and schedule of events.

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



Photos Around Open Space

If you've noticed any cameras discreetly tucked away around Open Space, you may have wondered why they're there. Using motion sensors, these game cameras snap a photo when they catch movement. Take a look at some of the sights they've picked up!



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

Open Space welcomes Willie Keliikuli to the Shooting Range!

William "Willie" Keliikuli is the newest addition to the Open Space Shooting Range. As a Rangemaster, Willie makes sure people using the range are doing so safely and assists as needed. He enjoys interacting with the people there, both the public and his fellow employees, and is looking forward to gaining more certifications to become an instructor.

Prior to starting at the Shooting Range in January, Willie worked for the Department of Defense's North Carolina Operations Center for seven years, first as a member of the military then as a civilian. In addition to moving soldiers and equipment needed for disaster and emergency events, including wildfires in New Mexico, Willie provided reports to the Pentagon. Originally from Hawaii, Willie moved to Albuquerque in 1984.

The Open Space Division welcomes Willie to our team!



Happy Trails to Diane Souder!

Diane Souder is retiring from the National Park Service at the end of March after working at Petroglyph National Monument for almost thirty years. Diane was not only critical to its creation in 1990, but was also the Monument's first employee; since then she has been involved in every aspect of the park, from operations and maintenance to education and planning.

Petroglyph National Monument is unique in that it is owned and managed as a partnership between the National Park Service and the City of Albuquerque Open Space Division. We here at Open Space have been fortunate to work with Diane and learn from her expertise firsthand.

See you on the trail, Diane!



Open Space Remembers Robert Short

Mike Felten



*Robert at the Shooting Range
Photo courtesy Wilson Fox*

Robert Short, who has worked at the Open Space Division's Shooting Range as a Rangemaster for just over five years, passed away March 2018.

As a family man, family, life, and relationships were very important to him; Robert was a loving husband, father and brother. Along with his work as a Rangemaster, he was also dedicated to being a Union Steward and Treasurer. Standing up for people and protecting and defending them from injustice, and doing the

right thing, were important in his life. Robert was an independent thinker always working on contributions and improvements the Park needed. He was serious about his work but would also find the time to share a joke with visitors to the park and his co-workers, always the first to chip in for a birthday cake or to support a colleague in need. Regular visitors to the park often asked about him. Robert was constantly making improvements to the park which included resurfacing tables, building wood containers to keep the shell buckets from blowing away, and making benches at the Trap and Skeet range. Robert will truly be missed.

In Memory of Jim Barnett

Jim Sattler

The Open Space Division is sad to announce the passing of long-time Trail Watch Volunteer Jim Barnett, who passed away on March 11, 2018. Jim lived next to the Via Posada Open Space in the Four Hills area and was very active in patrolling his neighborhood Open Space. In addition to being a Trail Watch Volunteer, Jim was also involved in trail maintenance, erosion control and was a Mutt Mitt adopter. Jim was also a World War II veteran, had a long career with Exxon-Mobil, volunteered for Meals on Wheels and was active in his community. The family requests that in lieu of flowers, a donation to your favorite charity be made in Jim's name.

In Memory of Rozier Sanchez

Bill Pentler



Rozier Sanchez

A friend and dedicated Open Space volunteer, Rozier Sanchez passed away on December 22nd of last year. Rozier and Victoria Sanchez were Trail Watch Volunteers before the group was even known by that title. They were also part of a small but very dedicated crew called Community Interpreters of the Environment (CIOTE) since May of 2000. These early proponents of the lands hosted Summer Series events, led hikes, did trail work and trash clean-ups, gave talks and were in the forefront of numerous programs that still exist today. It's always been said that we wouldn't be able to pull off what we do in Open Space without the support of the volunteers and the CIOTEs were the epitome of that statement.

Rozier was a longtime Judge and community leader; a man of many and exceptional talents. Numerous accolades are associated with his name and there are far too many to list here. He was a person of the people, a family man, husband, friend, and cohort to an endless cadre of folks who followed his lead of public service both professionally and personally.

I was given the honor of writing this because Rozier and Victoria were an integral part of my fledgling programs; these included many tree plantings, talks and hikes for an endless number of school outings in the spring across the years, and most of the annual clean-ups and events through not only the CIOTE and Trail Watch programs, but also the Sandia Civitans, with which they were involved for over forty years. They were hugely supportive in helping to show me the ropes on those early hikes and talks, and were enthusiasts of the Summer Series.

I've always been a believer in the thought that no one is truly gone as long as we remember them, and know that I'll be seeing Rozier on the trails and landscapes throughout Open Space until the end of my days.



Rozier and his wife Victoria

The Duende Onion

Disc Golf Cleanup gets Down

Fifty-four Disco enthusiasts showed up to what was supposed to be a Disc Golf Course Cleanup at Montessa Park; unfortunately, a typo listed the event as a Disco Golf Course Cleanup. Participants showed up with platform shoes, leisure suits, spandex body suits, bell bottoms and golf clubs. "I've never seen so much polyester before," commented cleanup organizer Rudy Orbison. "They picked up a lot of trash for the first hour or so, but then they got into a dance contest and forgot about the cleanup," added Orbison.

In related news, the City's 311 Information System has been getting a number of calls from other groups, such as the Rock a Billy Golfers, the Death Metal Golfers, the Mariachi Golfers, the New Wave Golfers and the Chamber Music Golfers who saw the typo and wondered why the Disco Golfers got to have their own golf course.

Pin Flag Safety Video to Be Released

In light of an unfortunate pin flag accident which occurred last year while trail planners were working at Las Cebollas Canyon Open Space, the Division put out a Request For Proposals to the film industry for a pin flag safety video. The Division was delighted when director and producer Wes Craven offered to write, direct and produce the safety video for free as a way to thank the Albuquerque community for being such a good host for his recent film, *Nightmare on Siberian Elm Street*.



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

The Scoop on Poop

Carol Calyx, spokesperson for the Not In My Open Space Coalition has been calling 311 to complain about the buildup of dog poop on Open Space trails. Ms. Calyx went as far as calling overzealous local reporter Harry Woofers about the poop situation because Woofers is always looking for a big scoop. Acting Open Space Natural Resource Manager Rusty McLeod met with Ms. Calyx to discuss the poop problem. In an interview with Woofers, McLeod was quoted as saying, "Being new to this position, this poop problem is something I've only recently stepped into and I will need some time to dig into it, but I take my new job very seriously and intend to jump in to this poop problem with both feet."

Get ready for this year's Summer Series!

Kyle Bality

It is that time of year again as we gear up for the 2018 Summer Series! Join us Saturday evenings, and listen to a different performer or speaker every week at Elena Gallegos! Or join us Sunday mornings as we explore different Open Space properties.



*A view at the Sunset Series at Elena Gallegos
Photo by Bill Pentler*

We will be kicking off the Series with returning favorites Scott and Johanna Hongell-Darse performing traditional Scandinavian/Celtic ballads and tales on May 26th. We also look forward to Summer Series returnees, such as music from Seth Hoffman, Lloyd Kritzer with Nature and Forest Therapy, Dara Seville with Edible and Medicinal Plants, and Mindful Meditation to finish off the Series August 26th!

Keep an eye out for the Summer Series brochure and check our website to find out when your favorite performers and topics return! Along with old favorites, keep an eye out for new performers, music, and Sunday adventures. See you there!

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.

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