



# CITY OF ALBUQUERQUE

## City Council

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February 14, 2014

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Academy Hills Park Update**

Friday, February 14, 2014 - Albuquerque, NM - Improvements to Academy Hills Park will start this year. The biggest change will be a new 6-foot wide asphalt walking/jogging path around the perimeter of the park. A shorter, natural surface path will parallel it at the upper end of the park. Two picnic tables with benches will be added, as well as eleven benches. Five of these benches are 'Tribute Benches' that have been sponsored by the public and the neighborhood, and they will have commemorative plaques affixed. Twenty-seven new trash cans will be installed as well as 6 new 'mutt mitt' dispensers.

New plantings will be part of the improvements as well, with 69 new trees, and 213 shrubs. Five existing mature trees will be relocated within the park to accommodate the new paths, and all the trees, new and existing, will get new six-foot diameter mulch rings for health and moisture retention. This will also serve to prevent mower damage. The old wood bollards will be replaced with new steel ones. The new soccer goals will allow the play field to be rotated 90 degrees from time to time to help the turf regenerate.

Most importantly, adjustments, upgrades, repairs and additions to the irrigation system will both help prevent water waste and allow us to irrigate properly when and where water is needed. The old system made tracking water use accurately very difficult and the water runoff that plagued the old system should cease. The slope across the concrete drainage will be heavily planted with drought resistant trees and the turf there will be over seeded with native grasses which require much less water than traditional park turf grass.

Since this project is so large, construction will take some time to complete, but work will be starting as soon as possible. We are looking forward to seeing this wonderful and heavily used park renewed and ready to go, better than ever.

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