

TIJERAS ARROYO

BIOZONE

One of the most unique open spaces in Albuquerque sits in District 9. Nestled between Four Hills, Hidden Valley, Four Hills North, and Singing Arrow, the Tijeras Arroyo Biozone represents the four major ecological zones that deserve to be preserved and protected for generations to come. We are working with Bernalillo County and the City of Albuquerque's Open Space Division to revamp the plan that will come before City Council.

The Tijeras Arroyo Biological zone is a 4 mile, 1000 foot long stretch of land that straddles Tijeras Creek. 'Biological zone,' or bio-zone, defines an area where there exists a high concentration of natural resources that contribute to the overall biological diversity of our region. The City of Albuquerque's Open Space Division currently manages a large portion of this land. In the case of Tijeras Arroyo, the Division also has the opportunity to protect a number of archaeological sites within the zone. The protection of all

natural and cultural resources is a very high priority for Councilor Harris.

In 2006, a series of informal conversations with constituents brought the Tijeras Arroyo to the attention of Councilor Harris. The Councilor recognized the need for a plan that would protect this treasure within the City, and sponsored a resolution to draft that plan. In 2008, Consultants Sites Southwest and Marron and Associates conducted studies of the flora, fauna, geology, hydrology, soils, and general condition of the land. Based on the resulting reports, a plan was drafted. In 2012, Councilor Harris requested that the Open Space Division take the plan through the approval process. The Parks and Recreation Department hired a consultant who, in collaboration with the Planning Department, would update the text maps and guide the document through the adoption process. In March of this year, the EPC reviewed the plan and recommended approval to the City Council. The plan passed through Land, Use, Planning, and Zoning Committee earlier this month and will be brought before City Council soon.

Currently, there are over 30 different entities that own property within the zone, and so far there exists no thorough and formal record of this land, its characteristics, resources

and recreational potential, nor any guidance for private developers. This plan provides an internal practical management guide for the area with the intention of:

- Conserving and restoring the remaining native vegetation and wildlife habitat to increase biodiversity where feasible within the study area**
- Providing increased low-impact recreational opportunities to area residents**
- Protecting cultural resources**
- Restoring the Tijeras Arroyo Channel and banks**
- Helping to preserve the aquifer by allowing water to infiltrate and recharge the aquifer and minimizing, through bio-swale filtering, the amount of storm water pollutants entering the arroyo from adjacent developed areas.**

This plan gives the Open Space Division, developers, and property owners a guiding document for restoring, protecting, and developing its lands within the zone throughout the years and through various administrations.