



Mayor Timothy M. Keller

CITY OF ALBUQUERQUE

Albuquerque, New Mexico

Office of the Mayor

EXECUTIVE ORDER

EXECUTIVE ORDER ON THE PRESERVATION AND STEWARDSHIP OF ALBUQUERQUE'S OPEN SPACE AS IT RELATES TO BIODIVERSITY AND CLIMATE RESILIENCE

WHEREAS, the City of Albuquerque manages approximately 30,597 acres of Major Public Open Space, encompassing diverse landscapes such as the West Mesa, Foothills, Bosque/Valley, Tijeras Arroyo, and East Mountains; and

WHEREAS, the Trump administration's rollback of the Waters of the United States (WOTUS) rule drastically reduced the number of water bodies protected under the Clean Water Act, endangering drinking water and aquatic ecosystems, particularly in arid and semi-arid regions like Albuquerque; and

WHEREAS, on March 3, 2025, President Trump issued an executive order to expand logging across 280 million acres of national forests and public lands, bypassing environmental protections including the Endangered Species Act; and

WHEREAS, on April 10, 2025, the U.S. House narrowly passed a budget framework central to President Trump's agenda, advancing approximately \$1.5 trillion in tax cuts and federal spending reductions, which could potentially impact funding for environmental protection programs, public land management, land acquisition and habitat protection programs, City park programs, urban tree planting initiatives, and local agriculture and food programs; and

WHEREAS, President Trump's attempted workforce reductions at agencies such as the National Park Service, U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, and U.S. Fish

and Wildlife Service will purposely inhibit these agencies from carrying out their essential missions and leave cherished public lands in New Mexico and across the West understaffed and unprotected, including Petroglyph National Monument in Albuquerque; and

WHEREAS, President Trump's Interior Secretary issued orders making public lands ground zero for drilling and mining, aiming to end protections of cherished places and expand oil, gas, and mining activities on the country's public lands that will threaten national park units in New Mexico such as Chaco and Carlsbad Caverns; and

WHEREAS, the administration's efforts to roll back environmental protections have been viewed as a systematic undermining of the laws that protect public lands, the agencies that manage them, and the irreplaceable resources these places safeguard for the American people; and

WHEREAS, the Rio Grande Valley in New Mexico diverse wildlife habitat, supports hundreds of species, including endangered species such as the Rio Grande silvery minnow and Southwestern willow flycatcher, and offers recreational opportunities that enhance the quality of life for Albuquerque residents and visitors; and

WHEREAS, the City of Albuquerque, through its Open Space Division, helps to manage the Rio Grande Valley State Park, encompassing over 4,300 acres of protected cottonwood forest, commonly known as the Bosque, to preserve and restore native habitats and provide educational and recreational opportunities; and

WHEREAS, the City of Albuquerque recognizes the critical importance of the Rio Grande to the community's environmental integrity, public health, and economic vitality, and is committed to counteracting federal rollbacks by implementing robust local measures to safeguard this precious resource; and

WHEREAS, Albuquerque's commitment to open space preservation, collaboration with the National Park Service, and urban park and tree planting efforts reflects the city's dedication to environmental stewardship, climate resilience, and the well-being of its residents.

Therefore, I, Tim Keller, Mayor of the City of Albuquerque, do hereby order and affirm the following:

1. That open space and tree planting shall be central to our city's climate resilience strategy, mitigating heat, absorbing carbon, and buffering flood risk.
2. That Albuquerque shall not yield to federal efforts that weaken conservation laws or open space protections that threaten federal, state and local lands but shall instead lead through local action.

3. That the City of Albuquerque shall continue to prioritize the preservation and restoration of its open spaces, including the Rio Grande bosque, Sandia Foothills, West Mesa, and other lands as vital community assets.
4. The City shall continue to be a vigilant steward of the health, flow, and ecological integrity of the Rio Grande and surrounding bosque.
5. The City shall expand nature-based stormwater management and protect the aquifer through sustainable water practices.
6. That the ecological integrity of the bosque shall be safeguarded through science-based management, habitat restoration, and native species protection.
7. That the City shall promote food justice by supporting community gardens, urban farms, and access to locally grown foods.
8. The City shall identify and remediate brownfields and contaminated lands, giving priority to city-owned sites in frontline communities.

SIGNED ON THIS ____ DAY OF _____, 2025.

TIMOTHY M. KELLER
MAYOR OF ALBUQUERQUE