

OPEN SPACE newsletter

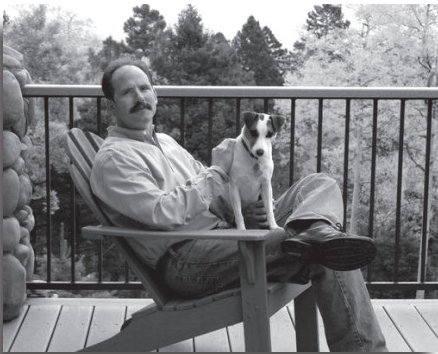


Mayor Richard J. Berry

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

Volume 14, Issue 3, July - September 2013

Enjoying and Protecting Albuquerque's Open Spaces this Summer **A Message from Mayor Richard J. Berry**



It is wildfire season again in the Southwest, with the 4th of July holiday already upon us. The Open Space Division and the Albuquerque Fire Department have been working together diligently to monitor and mitigate the threat of fire.

For weeks, City officials have been meeting with their county, state, and federal counterparts to ensure that Albuquerque's precious natural resources such as our cottonwood *bosque* are safe and that any fire will be met with a coordinated and prompt response.

We appreciate your continued patience with closures and fire restrictions. A temporary closure is inconvenient, but it is a much better alternative than having areas lost for years while they recover from a major fire. Please see www.cabq.gov/openspace for more information about the closure and how you can help protect Albuquerque's Open Spaces. As a community, we can all contribute to preserving our Open Spaces for years to come.

While closures are in effect, the City and the Open Space Division strive to provide our citizens with recreational opportunities throughout the year. The Open Space Summer Series (details on page 7) continues through August and offers many chances to enjoy the outdoors and some of the best music, entertainment and speakers in Albuquerque. Additionally, the Open Space Visitor Center (OSVC) is a premier destination to view wildlife and to learn about Albuquerque's unique natural heritage. See page 4 for information on upcoming events at the OSVC.

One of the best ways to enjoy and contribute to Open Space is by volunteering. See page 9 for a list of the amazing accomplishments our volunteers made this year. As Mayor, it's awesome to see the amount of hard work that our volunteers put in on a daily basis. The City of Albuquerque could not run at the level it does without the dedicated service of volunteers. I want to thank and celebrate those of you who serve our City, and honor you for all you have done. Have a great summer and enjoy all that Open Space has to offer.

Sincerely,

Photo courtesy of the Albuquerque Journal

A Letter from El Duende



El Duende wants to personally thank everyone who helped make the spring project season a great success! When El Duende thinks about all those people who care enough about Open Space to come out and help cleanup trash, scrub graffiti from boulders, and help maintain trails it sends a quiver down my Pulaski. But sometimes when El Duende is on a hike someone will stop me and say, “Hey, El Duende, I’d really like to help with your projects but my duendenitis is acting up and I just can’t swing a Pulaski like I used to. Is there anyway I can still get involved?” Well there are many ways to get involved in any of our projects without having to swing a Pulaski or move rocks. These projects require a great deal of support including morning set up, directing parking, serving snacks

or lunch, and after event cleanup.

Also, all of our snacks, refreshments and prizes are donated, if you have a connection to a merchant who might be able to donate some refreshments or prizes we would really appreciate the help. Of course you can always make a monetary contribution to the Open Space Alliance and indicate which project you’d like the money to go towards. So once again a heart felt thank you to all who participated in our projects this spring. As we move into what is looking like a long, hot, dry summer please use caution and do what you can to help prevent any wild fires in Open Space. And remember, (turn on your secret Duende decoder rings now) not all trail users recreate environmentally.

El Duende

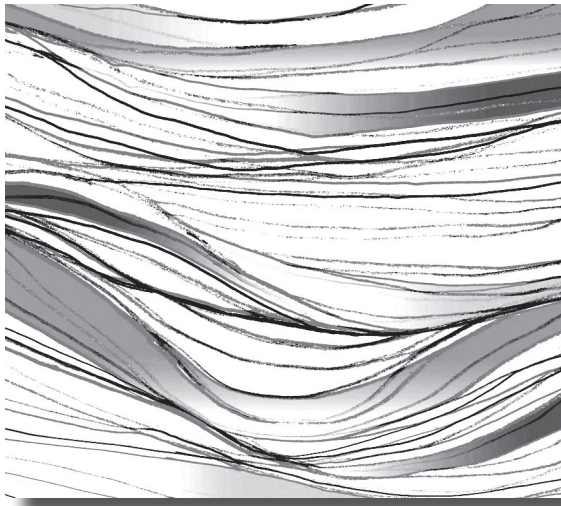
La Cebolla del Duende (The Duende’s Onion)

Rio Grande Triathlon: The Rio Grande Triathlon went horribly awry when low water levels turned the swim competition into a mud slinging event. “There was more mud being thrown around than the presidential election”, said Thomas Village, a spectator at the event.

Golem Reported in Foothills: Rumors have been spreading that a secret society known as Il Duendenati has conjured up a living creature similar to a Golem, but made from dog poop instead of clay. The creature supposedly wanders the Foothills seeking to take revenge on those who do not cleanup after their dogs.

Farm News: John Barelycorn, an associate of the Associate Planner in charge of Open Space agricultural properties announced that Las Cebollas Community Farm would not be planting any corn this season due to the extreme drought. Instead the farms will be planting the fields with cholla cactus. “I just hope it comes in thick enough in time for the annual maze,” John commented.

Mayhem at National trails Day: Mayhem erupted at the Elena Gallegos Picnic Area during National Trails Day when 120 lawyers showed up thinking it was National Trials Day. The error was due to a typo on a Meetup site posted by a UNM law student. The lawyers spent the morning near the registration table advising volunteers not to sign the waiver of liability. They then lingered around a cactus planting project hoping for an accident.. “I knew something was amiss when I saw all those business suits” said Santiago Franco the Open Space coordinator of the event.



Alluvial

What: The Open Space Visitor Center Gallery is pleased to present *Alluvial*, a multimedia exhibition that explores natural patterns and progressions. It seeks to render an artful meditation on the gradual redistribution of matter. Or, in the case of art, ideas.

Where: The Open Space Visitor Center, 6500 Coors Rd. NW 87120

When: July 6 through September 1, 2013. Public Reception for the Artists and the Public: August 3, 2013 from 3 p.m. - 5 p.m.

Alluvial: adjective, noun + undeveloped land + natural resources + non-representational + ecology + matter + abstraction + color + pattern + habitat + water + time + words + gravity. . .

Contact: Joshua Willis, jrwillis@cabq.gov, (505) - 897-8856

“Time and Tide wait for No Man,” as the old saying goes. Forces of nature are always at work, gradually eroding and reshaping the world around us through a complex process of cutting and filling, repeating, overlapping and coalescing. Consider, for example, the deposit of fine soil left after the periodic flooding of a river delta: alluvium. Or the creation of new land formations by the relentless movement of the ocean: alluvion. But sometimes the impact of man speeds up and distorts the process, too often with startling results.

This art show seeks to align the fast paced expansion of human knowledge and influence with the gradual and adaptive pace of natural processes. It also seeks to reveal the interdependence fundamental to our existence on the planet. *Alluvial* invites us to consider how man’s expansion may indeed alter—even accelerate—natural processes, and how those changes to the land may alter—even belie—our own patterns and behavior.

“. . . to know the wilderness is to know a profound humility, to recognize one’s littleness, to sense dependence and interdependence, indebtedness and responsibility.” Aldo Leopold

JULY 2012

***ONGOING: FIRST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH, 7:30 AM. *Guided Bosque Nature Walk*.** Registration is recommended one month in advance.

Every Sunday, 8:00am - 9:30am. *Yoga with a View*. Yoga with instructor Jenny Dominque. \$15.00 donation. A portion of the donation benefits the Open Space Alliance.

July 6th-September 1st. *Alluvial*. A multimedia exhibition that explores natural patterns and progressions. See page 3 for details.

AUGUST 2012

***ONGOING: FIRST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH, 7:30 AM. *Guided Bosque Nature Walk*.** Registration is recommended one month in advance.

Every Sunday, 8:00am - 9:30am. *Yoga with a View*. See July listing.

ONGOING through September 1st. *Alluvial*. See July listing.

August 3rd, from 3 p.m. - 5 p.m. *Alluvial, Public Reception for the Artists and the Public*. Free. See page 3 for details.

SEPTEMBER 2012

***ONGOING: FIRST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH, 7:30 AM. *Guided Bosque Nature Walk*.** Registration is recommended one month in advance.

Every Sunday, 9:00am - 10:30am (please note time change for September). *Yoga with a View*. See July listing.

September-October 2011. *Colloquial Goods: Traditional New Mexican Arts*. See page 11 for details.

***September 8th. *Beekeeping Series with Les Crowder*.** Fall Hive Management. The cost is \$60 per class on a drop-in basis.

September 15th, 10am - 4pm. *Urban Farm and Harvest Festival*. See page 10 for details.

****This event requires pre-registration. Call 897-8831 or email openspace@cabq.gov to register.***

The Open Space Visitor Center is located at 6500 Coors Blvd NW between Montaño and Paseo del Norte at the end of Bosque Meadows Rd.



Photo Courtesy Bill Tondreau

The Rio Grande Vision 2013

Bringing the river into our daily lives



Hiking on Soft Surface Trails



Kayaking & Paddle Boarding



Tree Planting

The ongoing efforts of the Rio Grande Vision (RGV) discussion is about bringing the river more into our daily lives, by:

- *Connecting* people to the Rio Grande & Bosque through recreation, education, stewardship and other quality of life opportunities
- *Protecting* the Bosque through restoration and conservation projects
- *Exciting* people with new ways to enjoy this wonderful natural resource

The RGV is a conceptual visioning document that is full of ideas and concepts; *it is not a blueprint for individual projects*. The ideas listed in the RGV have come from citizens and consultants who have participated in the visioning process to this point – additional input is always welcomed.

The RGV does not include restaurants or buildings inside the Bosque. Other suggestions from the community for *outside* the Bosque levees include restroom facilities, bike or kayak rentals, and maybe a place to get a bite to eat or a cup of coffee.

Not every idea in the RGV will be proposed as a project – the document simply lists possibilities. This is why we need community input to select individual components of the RGV as we move forward.



Mountain Biking



Bird Watching & Enjoying Nature



Wayfinding & Educational Signage



Picnics under the Cottonwoods

The projects that come from the RGV will comply with the *Bosque Action Plan* and other existing approval processes.

An environmental consultant is in the process of being hired as an integral part of the team prior to project design.

Next Steps

The City Council has approved \$2.9 Million in CIP (Capital Improvement Program) funds for amenities near the Central river crossing and soft trail consolidation and restoration from Central up to I-40.

We will take the ideas we receive from the community and advocates and will incorporate that input as we develop potential project designs for the Central section.

Based on input to this point, initial projects for consideration may include:

- Improved access areas, including access points for the disabled which could include boardwalks and decks
- Improvements to the existing picnic area, wayfinding, kayaking and paddle board access
- Restoration of the Bosque and removal of jetty jacks and invasive plant species
- Educational and stewardship opportunities

Once draft plans are put together for the Central area in the future, a series of public meetings will be held. And additional input and comments will be gladly taken into consideration.

This is a community plan and we look forward to your participation in the discussion.

Learn More

For upcoming public meetings and other information, please subscribe to our e-mail newsletter at the ABQ the Plan web page: <http://abqtheplan.cabq.gov/>



Summer Series Update

The calls keep coming in asking if the Summer Series is still on and as long as we're allowed to keep the Open Space facilities in the foothills open, the Saturday Sunset Series at the Elena Gallegos is a go. In fact, it's almost half over but being the half full type of guy means there is still time and lots of fun, fascinating things for the whole family to come and experience. See our schedule at cabq.gov/openspace for details on what you won't want to miss out on.

Some of the areas for the Sunday Hikes have been closed due to fire dangers but we're trying to avoid canceling any by scrambling to find different locations for those few hikes affected. The one in question is the Bird Hike with Jeanne Frye-Mason where the location is still being discussed, the Golden Hike, and the Day of Mindfulness and Meditation. The last two are at the end of August and we're hoping the monsoon weather pattern will form up by then and give us enough rain to allow those events to take place but please check in with Bill Pentler at 452-5222 or wpentler@cabq.gov on pre-registration, changes, directions, and/or information for any of the Summer Series events.

Sunday Hikes

July 7th, Bosque Wild Guided Nature Walk – The Open Space Visitor Center. A 2 hour hike near the Bosque. Note: Call 897-8831 for required Pre-registration.

***July 14th, A Bird Hike with Jeanne Frye-Mason** – Meet at the Milne Open Space for a 2 to 3 hour mildly strenuous hike. Bring your binoculars and whatever you need for a comfortable hike. Pre-registration required.

July 21st , Candelaria Farms Hike – Meet at 8:30 am. A light to moderate hike to one of Open Space's agricultural properties. Bring water and whatever you need for a comfortable hike.

July 28th, Basic Orienteering by the NM Orienteers – The 66 on 66. A 2 to 3 hour instruction by Jerry Boyd and others from the New Mexico Orienteers. Bring water, a compass if you have one, and whatever you need to deal with a strenuous area. Pre-registration required.

August 4th, Nature Journaling – Meet at 8:30 am at the Open Space Visitor Center. A 2 hour instruction with acclaimed artist and watercolorist Margy O'Brien. Bring basic paper, notebook, sketchbook, pencil and/or pen and whatever else you need for a comfortable session. Pre-registration required.

August 11th, the Basics of Honeybees – The Open Space Visitor Center. An hour or more instruction and activities on beekeeping for the whole family led by Jodi Hedderig, Manager of the Open Space Visitor Center and Beekeeper for the Open. Space Division. Pre-registration required.

***August 18th, The Golden Open Space** – Meet at 8:30 am for a strenuous hike to one of Open Spaces outlying areas. Bring water and whatever you need for a 2 to 3 hour hike. Pre-registration required.

***August 25th, A Day of Mindfulness and Nature** – Meet at 8:30 am. Carolino Canyon. A morning of tranquility and meditation led by Dug Corpolongo of Albuquerque Buddhist Fellowship lasting a few hours or longer. Wear comfortable clothes, bring water, snack or lunch, and an open mind. Pre-registration required.

**These hikes may be affected by fire restrictions. Please call Bill Pentler at 452-5222 for Pre-Registration, information, or changes. Directions will be given at that time for hikes that require pre-registration.*

Saturday Sunset Calendar



The Saturday Sunset Series features talks, demonstrations, and shows by some of Albuquerque's best speakers, teachers, and performers. All Saturday Sunset Series programs take place at the Elena Gallegos Double Shelter Amphitheater with the exception of Nature Dancing and Ballet-Afrique which will be at the nearby Kiwanis Shelter. All talks and performances are free with a \$2.00 entry fee per vehicle to the park. The Elena Gallegos Park is located at the end of Simms Park Road, east of Tramway Boulevard, just north of Academy.

July 6th, A Thunderous Evening with NM Taiko Without Rain – A concert led by Calvin Kobayashi demonstrating Taiko's long history which blends martial arts choreography and synchronized drumming.

July 13th, WeInterpret – A talk and demonstration of interpreting for the deaf and hard of hearing with Marti Stockdale and Jessica Anderson, www.WeInterpret.net.

July 20th, Ballet-Afrique – A new dance style by Romy Keegan of the Maple Street Dance Space combining naturally aerobic and energizing African movement with Ballet forms that develop core strength and inherent grace for an evening of expressiveness and joy.

July 27th, An Officer's Perspective – A talk and discussion of the job and activities of an APD Open Space Law Enforcement Officer by Lt. Todd Hudson.

August 3rd, Poetry and Spoken Word – A wonderful evening of offerings from a collection of talented artists led by Gina Marselle.

August 10th, The Nahalat Shalom Community Klezmer Band with Rikud Dance Troupe – A small orchestra playing Eastern European music for an evening of sensory joy and dancing.

August 17th, Ballads and Runes: An Evening of Ancient Tales and Original Music – Innovative music and remarkable stories with Scott and Johanna Hongell-Darsee and special guests.

August 24th, Stories That Float – An evening of music and storytelling with the incomparable musician Bonnie Schmader and wondrous storyteller Susi Wolf.

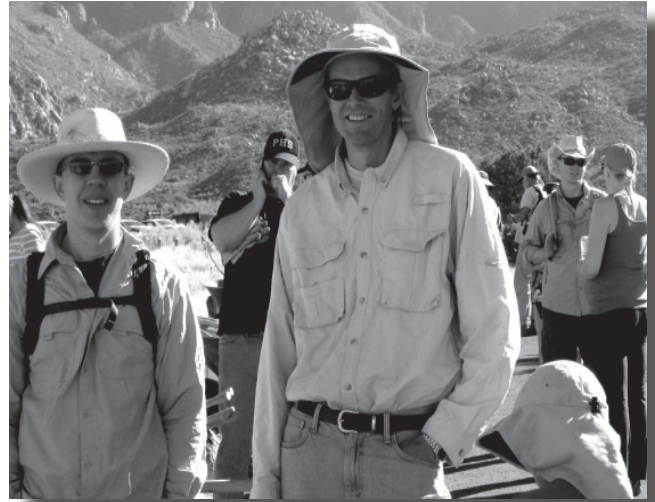
See www.cabq.gov/openspace for a full calendar or call 452-5222 for more information.

Spring Events Wrap Up

~by Jim Sattler

A big thank you to everyone who made our spring projects a success! Once again spring proved to be a busy time for Open Space staff and volunteers. This year's 5 Spring Cleanup projects set a record for attendance with almost 500 volunteer participating! The cleanup season started at the end of March with the Route 66 Open Space at the mouth of Tijeras Canyon.

The Route 66 Open Space has only been protected as public land for just over 2 years. Years of neglect prior to being Open Space were evident as volunteers cleaned up 4 pickup truck loads of trash and 1 pickup truck load of recyclables.



Spring Cleanups continued in the Foothills throughout the month of April where 13 years of annual cleanups have greatly reduced the amount trash in the Open Space. With less trash to pick up volunteers were able to focus on trail maintenance, sign replacement, graffiti removal and dog poop cleanup. Approximately 325 pounds of dog poop was removed from the Foothills.

National River Cleanup Day took place in May. Unusually dry conditions and a reduced amount of water in the river forced us to cancel the rafting part of this event, although a handful canoes and kayaks did participate. Altogether 130 volunteer participated and cleaned up a mountain of trash and 2 overflowing pickup truck loads of recyclables.

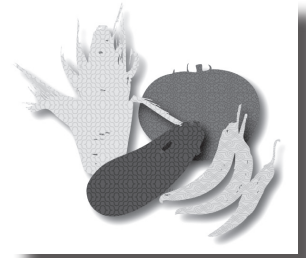
As with all of our cleanup projects we usually find an odd or interesting item or two. Some of this year's weird trash included a voodoo doll with strategically placed pins, several old rifles, an electric ice cream maker (think about the context), a broken piggy bank, a military issue MRE (Meal Ready to Eat) – Menu 21 Tuna, a box from Direct Funeral Services Crematory, 5 weathered notebooks full of poetry, and a variety of electronics parts and auto parts.

The spring projects wrapped up with National Trails Day at the Elena Gallegos where over 100 volunteers participated in 10 different projects. Projects included the construction of approximately ¼ mile of new trails in and around the picnic areas to replace informal and eroded trails, graffiti removal at Piedra Lisa Open Space, and several trail maintenance projects.

Once again thanks to all those who participated in our spring projects and thanks especially to our sponsors who make these projects possible.

The 6th Annual Urban Farm and Harvest Festival

Celebrating Albuquerque's Agricultural Heritage



What: A Celebration of Open Space, Urban Agriculture, Local Food, and Community

When: September 15th, 2013, 10am-4pm.

Where: Open Space Visitor Center, 6500 Coors Blvd NW between Montañño and Paseo del Norte at the end of Bosque Meadows Rd.

Cost: FREE

This year's event explores the theme of farming and gardening in drought. Activities will include: Booths from local farmers, businesses, and artisans; live music; workshops and presentations; hay-bale ride; children's arts and crafts; and delicious food. See our website for an updated schedule of activities.

Thanks to Our Awesome Sponsors!

This winter and spring, Albuquerque's local businesses came out in force to support Open Space projects and events. We'd like to thank our 2013 event sponsors and partners. In no particular order, they are: REI, the Bike Coop, Bernalillo County Public Works, Routes Rentals, Cycle Cave, City of Albuquerque Aquatics Division, City of Albuquerque Golf, Trader Joe's Uptown, Long Leash on Life, Skarsgard Farms, I Scream Ice Cream, the US Forest Service Sandia Ranger District, American Rivers, the American Hiking Society, Friends of the Sandia Mountains, Sports Systems, Frito Lay, Wolfe's Bagels, Whole Foods, Starbuck's Coffee on Rio Grande, Starbuck's Coffee on Wyoming, 2 Wheel Drive, the New Mexico BioPark Society, the Kickstand Bicycle Sales and Service, Nicodemus Wilderness Project, Passage Community Church, Stone Age Climbing Gym, Kirtland Air Force Base Outdoor Recreation, the Albuquerque Fire Department and Swift Water Rescue Team, Quiet Waters Paddling Adventures, the Rotary Club of Albuquerque, Whole Foods, the West Central Alliance of Neighbors, the Open Space Alliance, the Greenside Café in Cedar Crest, La Montanita Co-op, and Great Harvest Breads.

A big thanks to Jay at the Greenside Café in Cedarcrest for supplying our Milne – Gutierrez Canyon and Golden trail crews with really great breakfast burritos. Next time you're visiting an East Mountain Open Space stop by for a breakfast burrito before your hike, or relax with lunch and a cold beverage after your hike. Tell Jay that you appreciate his support of Open Space!

The Open Space Visitor Center would like to thank Whole Foods and Plants of the Southwest for sponsoring the Pollinator Awareness Day, and Keep Albuquerque Beautiful for donating kitchen counter compost buckets for Recycled Art Fair and other special events. A special thank you also to Elke Duerr of the Web of Life Foundation for donating a short documentary of the Recycled Art Fair to the Open Space Division.

The City of Albuquerque Open Space Visitor Center Presents: Colloquial Goods: Traditional New Mexican Arts

When: September-October 2013

Opening Reception:

September 7, Reception 3 - 5 p.m.

Wood sculpture, tin punch arts, pottery are all a means of taking the resources that are provided by the New Mexico landscape and carving, piercing or shaping them into something that communicates beauty, pride and skill. Or, more simply put, these are “colloquial goods.”



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 Sallie McCarthy, OSA Board President, at mccarthy_sal@hotmail.com

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
- RENEWAL
- TRAILS DAY**
- \$15 STUDENT (18 & UNDER) / SENIOR
- \$20 INDIVIDUAL
- \$30 FAMILY
- \$250 SUSTAINING
- \$500 CORPORATE
- \$1000 LIFE MEMBER

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





Open Space Alliance

P.O. Box 91265
Albuquerque, NM 87199

Non-Prof. Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit #297
Albuquerque, NM

OR CURRENT RESIDENT

Open Space News

is a quarterly publication of the
City of Albuquerque, Parks & Recreation Department, **Open Space Division**
P.O. Box 1293, Albuquerque, NM 87103
Phone: (505) 452-5200 (voice/relay) | FAX: 873-6628
www.cabq.gov/openspace
and funded by the **Open Space Alliance**
THE OPEN SPACE NEWS IS PRODUCED BY DUENDE ENTERPRISES, A SUBSIDIARY OF PULASKI PRODUCTIONS

STAFF & NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTORS

Mayor Richard J. Berry

Director,

Parks & Recreation Department

Barbara Baca

Superintendent

Matthew Schmader, Ph.D.

Assistant Superintendent

Tony Barron

Planner

Jay Lee Evans

Resource Management & Visitor

Services Program Manager

Jim F. Sattler

Operations & Maintenance

Manager

Chris Tavasci

Open Space Forester

Steve Ryan

Associate Planner

Susannah Abbey

Associate Planner

Kent Swanson (Editor and Layout)

Park Specialist

James Marmor

Environmental Education

Coordinator

Bill Pentler

Manager, OSVC

Jodi Heckerig

OSVC Coordinator

Joshua Willis

President

Open Space Alliance

Sallie McCarthy

HOURS OF OPERATION

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

(505)857-8334

PETROGLYPH NATIONAL MONUMENT

BOCA NEGRA CANYON

8:00 am to 5:00 pm, all week

\$1.00 weekdays / \$2.00 weekends

(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