



City of Albuquerque
Open Space Division



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RQUE parks & recreation

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PLAN

2023 - 2028



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INTRODUCTION

This Strategic Plan is intended to be a guiding document for the next five years for the City's Open Space Division (OSD) community engagement and education programs. The Plan is responding to City Council's Resolution R-22-8 to address equitable access and enjoyment of Major Public Open Space. The Plan identifies current programs and practices; presents the Neighborhood Open Space initiative

and methods for a scaffolding approach to community engagement; explains the fundamental intent, values, and vision for the strategic plan; and outlines priority areas under six overarching goals, co-created with partners and stakeholders, including the Office of Equity and Inclusion (OEI). The six major goals include:

- Goal 1 - Increase Access to Major Public Open Space
- Goal 2 - Grow the Relevancy and Impact of Education Programs
- Goal 3 - Increase a Sense of Belonging and Stewardship through Outreach and Communication
- Goal 4 - Grow Connections and Opportunities for Residents to Access Major Public Open Space
- Goal 5 - Collaborate with New and Long-Standing Community and City of Albuquerque Partners to Grow Collective Reach
- Goal 6 - Make Informed Decisions through Improved Evaluation and Studies

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- Hawks Aloft Inc
- Open Space Alliance
- National Park Service - Petroglyph National Monument
- NM Department of Game & Fish, Share with Wildlife program
- NM MESA
- New Mexico Kids Matter
- NMSU Bernalillo County Extension
- NM Museum of Natural History
- NMWF (Nature Ninos)
- Rio Grande Community Farm
- Rio Grande Nature Center State Park
- Rio Grande Return
- Sandia Mountain Natural History Center
- Talking Talons Youth Leadership
- The Wilderness Society
- Together for Brothers
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- U.S. Forest Service - Sandia Ranger District
- Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge

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**City of Albuquerque
Parks & Recreation Department
Open Space Division**

cabq.gov/parksandrecreation



LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The City of Albuquerque and its Open Space areas are located on the ancestral lands of today's Pueblos and Tribes of Central New Mexico. The Open Space Division recognizes and respects the Pueblos' and Tribes' inherent rights to access their traditional lands as the original stewards and caretakers of these places since time immemorial. The ancestral and cultural significance of these lands extends well beyond to Indigenous communities in surrounding areas and states. Indigenous peoples have lived in this region for thousands of years. Over the millennia, many groups have traveled through the Rio Grande region and trace their origins or identify with places here. Members of other traditional communities, such as land grant heirs, also have direct connections to numerous important locations. This land acknowledgment extends to all people who recognize the cultural power and importance of these lands that we as a City have the privilege of caring for and sharing with our community.



Albuquerque Open Space Division

Major Public Open Space

The Open Space Division (OSD) of the Parks and Recreation Department (PRD) manages a system of Major Public Open Space, a large network of undeveloped and natural lands in and around Albuquerque. The OSD was established in 1984 and the Open Space system now includes over 30,000 acres. Major Public Open Space (MPOS) protects natural and cultural resources, provides visual relief from urbanization, and offers extensive opportunities for education, low-impact recreation, and other activities.

The purposes of MPOS include the following:

- Conserve natural resources and environmental features
- Protect wildlife habitat
- Provide opportunities for outdoor education and low-impact recreation
- Shape the urban form
- Conserve archaeological and cultural resources
- Provide trail corridors
- Protect the public from natural hazards

MPOS properties typically encompass large tracts of land with important cultural and environmental features and often include portions of the most significant landforms in and around Albuquerque. These major areas include the Rio Grande Bosque and farmland in the Rio Grande Valley; volcanoes, escarpment, grasslands, and petroglyphs on the West Mesa; lands along the Foothills of the

Sandia and Manzano Mountains; pinon-juniper woodlands in the East Mountains; and important arroyos such as Bear Canyon, Calabacillas, and Tijeras Arroyo.

City officials' and the community's protection of these defining areas for all citizens today and into the future is one of Albuquerque's greatest legacies. The City continues this effort by managing MPOS, protecting other significant sites through land acquisition, and smart urban planning.

Neighborhood Open Space

Trust for Public Land's 2022 annual Park Score report shows that 91% of Albuquerque residents live within a 10-minute walk of a park. While this network of green spaces along with additional public lands around the Albuquerque area greatly serves the residents of the city, several barriers have kept some of our most vulnerable and underserved

communities from accessing these public lands. According to the annual Park Score, residents in neighborhoods where most people identify as a person of color have access to 26% less park space per person than those in predominantly white neighborhoods. This is especially concerning because of the numerous benefits to a person's physical, mental, and social well-being fostered from being in nature and the outdoors.

Consequently, as a component of the City's efforts to increase equitable public access to parks and green spaces within the urban core, the OSD developed a new initiative over the past few years called Neighborhood Open Space (NOS). NOS connects residents to parks, trails, Open Space, community gardens, and other natural areas. Neighborhoods that may be more distant from MPOS or that have been historically underserved gain expanded

ADDRESSING BARRIERS

There has been increased interest from City elected officials to address barriers and provide equitable access to parks and green space. City Council passed Resolution R-22-8. Section 3 of the resolution states, “Equitable Access to Parks and Open Space Programs. The Parks and Recreation Department shall work with the Office of Equity and Inclusion to make recommendations to City Council, including identifying operation funding needs for environmental education and recreational programs that will increase opportunities for socially equitable access and enjoyment of MPOS and other parks, trails, and green space by all communities within the city. There is an opportunity to create natural parks and access points adjacent to MPOS for programming and improved access.”

Additionally, since 2018, Mayor Keller launched the Youth Connect program that provided funding and the creation of two new Open Space Education Coordinators, greatly expanding the Open Space Division’s ability to increase public programs.

(Continued from pg. 3)

opportunities for nature connection, education, sustainable food systems, healthy nature-based play, and community connection. NOS also bridges the larger City MPOS system and other state and federal public lands in New Mexico.

The goals of Neighborhood Open Space include:

- Provide outdoor places for people to experience the natural world and low-impact outdoor recreation, especially in underserved areas lacking green space and nature.
- Support wildlife habitat in the urban core, including native bees and birds.
- Create sustainable ecological systems that also help address climate change, soil health, and water conservation issues.
- Support local food systems through urban agriculture and gardening.
- Cultivate a sense of pride within the neighborhood and uplift the community’s cultural identity.
- Provide places of quiet and solitude for contemplation and reflection.
- Connect communities to local green spaces through education, civic engagement, citizen science, and other tools for further exploring the space and the larger MPOS network.

According to the Children and Nature Network:

“On average, today’s kids spend up to 44 hours per week in front of a screen, and less than 10 minutes a day playing outdoors. And for too many kids, regular and safe access to nature is determined by race, income, identity, ability, and postal code.”

Spending time in nature is proven to boost academic performance, attention span, and overall behavior; support a wide range of physical health benefits such as balance and eyesight and reduce obesity; provides social benefits including increased self-esteem and ability to share and get along with others, as well as reduces anger, stress, and depression.

These benefits are especially vital to communities and youth experiencing high-stress levels that may result from poverty, housing insecurity, and other challenges.

www.childrenandnature.org



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES OF THE OPEN SPACE DIVISION

As part of the Neighborhood Open Space (NOS) initiative and with the support of additional funding, the OSD has launched numerous programs over the last couple of years with a focus on meeting communities where they are and providing a scaffolded approach based on multiple years of feedback from community groups and conservation organizations. In this strategically scaffolded approach, many programs focus on serving Albuquerque's residents where they live, work, and play, especially

within historically trusted community facilities such as schools, libraries, parks, and community centers. NOS programs bridge communities to Open Space programs and properties.

The first step of the scaffold includes education kits (Eco Care Kits for youth, Explorer Backpacks, and Beginning Birding Kits for adults) that are distributed widely throughout the community without a need for staff capacity. These kits help reach a broad audience who

may or may not be aware of the Open Space Division.

The second step includes community events such as Park Pop-up events, held at parks and community centers in underserved areas.

The next scaffolded approach is achieved through programming like Farm in Your Neighborhood and Explorer Camps held at Open Space properties.



Finally, the OSD offers programs such as Introduction to the Outdoors and My Family First Camp-outs to give people the skills to explore the outdoors independently.

OPEN SPACE DIVISION PROGRAMS

The Open Space Division public programs listed below are organized by audience and in scaffolding order. The OSD and partners have offered some of these programs for decades, while many have been developed over the last couple of years as part of the Neighborhood Open Space initiative. Each program will continue to be evaluated to meet the intended audience and purpose. The OSD is working with the Office of Equity and Inclusion (OEI) and community partners to consider ways to serve diverse audiences best and have the most impact with limited resources. The OSD is also exploring opportunities to leverage support by further partnering with environmental education groups, Divisions within the Parks and Recreation Department, and other City Departments engaged in this work.

Community Public Programs and Events

General Community Outreach Events
OSD hosts hands-on activities at outreach events such as New Mexico State Fair, NM Science Fiesta, CABQ Spring into Summer event, CABQ Cruzin' Into the School Year event, and other local community events.

Neighborhood Nature Festivals
Free events hosted at parks and community centers in underserved areas of the city. This program will shift to support the Parks and Recreation Department Park Pop-up events as part of the City's Neighborhood Park Activation Program.



OPEN SPACE DIVISION PROGRAMS

Open Space Visitor Center Events

The Open Space Visitor Center is the most prominent place to educate and engage the public about Major Public Open Space. This keystone facility features a gallery, variety of programs, and annual events on various natural and cultural history themes. Additionally, there are demonstration gardens, agriculture fields, a wetlands and other outdoor spaces to explore.

Volunteer Opportunities

The OSD has a robust volunteer and visitor services program that engages the public in hands-on conservation projects. Over 6,000 volunteers support the OSD through the Trail Watch and Fire Watch programs; annual tree planting, clean-up and trail building events; and ongoing support from docents and garden volunteers at the Open Space Visitor Center.



Youth & Family Public Programs

Eco Care Roadrunner Plush

Stuffed animals (plush) are distributed to First Responders to share with children on scene. These plush provide an opportunity for youth to settle their nervous system out of the fight/flight/freeze trauma response and connect them with information about free nature resources to support healing.

Eco Care Kits for Foster Care Youth

These kits are designed to support children's mental, emotional, and physical health with a variety of items designed to support a connection to the restorative effects of nature and are intended for youth in the Foster Care system.

Nature in Your Neighborhood, Ages 6-10

A summer based program in partnership with Family and Community Services Department that serves every City community center. This outdoor program aims to connect youth to the health benefits of time spent outdoors and discover that nature is all around. The next day, participants take a field trip to the Elena Gallegos Open Space.

Farm in Your Neighborhood, Ages 11-14

A summer based, two-part program in partnership with the City of Albuquerque Family and Community Services Department that serves every City community center. This science program aims to connect youth to local agriculture with a community center lesson on soil science followed the next day with a field trip to Rio Grande Community Farm at Los Poblanos Fields Open Space.

Discovery Days,

Youth Ages 3-to-5 with a Grown-up

Parents join their little one at the Open Space Visitor Center to have fun together, making discoveries about the natural world with hands-on science, story time, and an art project, and leave with a packet of ideas and activities to continue discovering at home.

Family Nature Club Hikes, All Ages

Families join an Open Space educator on a family-friendly hike and engage in hands-on learning together. They listen to natural history facts, enjoy storytelling, and seek out signs of wildlife.



Explorer Camps, Ages 6-10

Camps are offered monthly during the school year and school breaks, including Fall and Spring breaks at the Open Space Visitor Center. The camps incorporate hiking and outdoor exploration, hands-on science, literacy, and art activities.

Outdoor Field School, Ages 11-14

This program is offered monthly during the school year at various Open Space locations. Tweens and teens explore the natural world through fun, hands-on science outdoors using real scientific equipment to observe and measure the environment.

OPEN SPACE DIVISION PROGRAMS

Youth Conservation and Environmental Education Programs for Teens & Young Adults

These programs provide environmental conservation and job training skills. Summer internships are available for youth interested in working as education assistants in outdoor education programs, serving as Park Attendants, and helping with natural resource management. The OSD also funds programs like the Rocky Mountain Youth Corps and Ancestral Lands Conservation Corps. Youth crews assist with trail building and maintenance, invasive species mitigation and other land-based projects.

My First Family Camp-out Program, All Ages

An overnight camp-out that introduces families, who have had limited access to camping and the outdoors (due to systemic barriers) to the joy of camping in a fun and supportive way through community partnerships. All camping gear and meals are included.

Adult Public Programs

Beginning Birding Kits: The Public Library Catalog

Each library in Albuquerque has bilingual (Spanish and English) kits available for loan as part of the library's collection.

Intro to the Outdoors: Workshops for Adults

Workshops introduce the basic principles of various outdoor activities including hiking, bird watching, biking, mountain biking, rock climbing, and more. Held in a supportive and fun environment, classes are led by experienced outdoor educators and provide all necessary materials.

Guided Hikes and Tours for Adults

Led by open space naturalists, these hikes take place at a variety of Open Space properties and cover a variety of topics ranging from cultural to natural history. Examples include Bosque Wild Guided Hike, Foothills Wild Guided Hike, Candelaria Nature Preserve Tours, and more.



School Group Programs

Albuquerque Ecosystems Program

These localized programs help students understand the concept and components of Albuquerque's major ecosystems, habitat, water quality issues etc. Lessons are grade-level appropriate in a hands-on setting, and give students the opportunity to understand concepts more deeply through real-world experience.

RiverXChange

RiverXChange is a hands-on, project-based program in the Albuquerque area where students advocate for watershed health in their community. Every year, students with RiverXChange help the OSD plant hundreds of native trees in the Bosque, including Cottonwood poles.

Bosque Ecosystem Monitoring Program (BEMP)

BEMP is a community science and education program that engages students in hands-on research essential to managing the Rio Grande ecosystem. The OSD utilizes this student-gathered data, and also supports BEMP to increase education programs for students after school.

Conservation Education Program for Middle & High Schools

This conservation education program helps students understand the importance of and stewardship for public lands. The program combines natural history and ecosystem instruction alongside a natural resources management service-learning project. The OSD is also working with the Bosque Ecosystem Monitoring Program to develop a program tailored to seventh grade students.

FUNDING IMPLICATIONS

The current budget for the education program and Neighborhood Open Space Initiative is \$268,000, which includes funding for two Open Space Education Coordinators and three full-time, year-round contract educators. This level of funding allows the City to provide 26 community events and 15 major programs, serving 11,000 people annually. This funding also supports employing youth in conservation-related jobs.

With additional funding, the City could grow current programs and have a broader reach, especially for school children and families. It is recommended that elected officials consider supporting the OSD Proposed Budget of up to \$853,400 annually. If funded, the OSD would focus on growing the program in the priority areas identified in this plan.



STRATEGIC PLANNING INTENT

This strategic plan was developed to set clear and actionable goals for the Open Space Division's community engagement activities. This plan is framed around the mission of the Open Space Division to protect Major Public Open Space for the use and benefit of current and future generations. Additionally, the plan emphasizes ways to embed best practices around diversity, equity, inclusion, and access. It calls for a collaborative evaluation and adaptive management approach to increase the OSD's relevancy, effectiveness, and impact to better serve the diversity of communities and residents in the Albuquerque area.



PLANNING PROCESS

The Open Space Alliance generously contracted with Aryn LaBrake of A.Rae Consulting to facilitate the strategic planning process and community engagement meetings for the OSD. Aryn has conducted similar plans for Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge and The Wilderness Society New Mexico's Urban to Wild Coalition. The facilitated planning process included internal meetings with city staff from the OSD and Office of Equity and Inclusion (OEI) followed by a large community meeting with groups who actively participated in the OSD programs as well as other partners brought in by the OEI. Prior to the community meeting, a survey

was conducted to understand the interest, desires, and opportunities in collaboration with partner organizations currently working with OSD. A total of 39 individuals provided feedback via the survey. The community meeting included 38 individuals, representing 32 partner organizations and community groups. The focus of the meeting was to assess the current programs and hone in on what OSD programs are the most effective, as well as identify how the OSD can strategically expand and prioritize its community engagement activities and programs.

Based on staff and community input, it was clear that, overall, the OSD

programs and activities are well received and are thought to be impactful.

Through this community-led process and additional input from the OSD staff and management within the Parks and Recreation and Office of Equity and Inclusion Departments, six priority areas were identified to further address equity and access to the City's public lands along with actionable priorities aligned with each goal.





COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT VALUES

The Open Space Division staff developed a shared vision and values, building off of the existing mission of the Open Space Division. This shared understanding provided the framework for developing the Plan and priority areas for future growth.

- **STEWARDSHIP OF NATURE**
We appreciate opportunities to have experiences in nature and learn from the natural world while investing our capacity to engage others to have those same opportunities and awe-inspiring moments in nature. We strive to foster new stewards with an ethic of care for our ecosystems, wildlife, and people who depend on them.
- **RESPECT AND EMPATHY**
We honor the voices and knowledge of the communities we serve by working to protect their rights to Open Space while coming from a place of understanding, meeting people where they are, with respect for each other, the land, and all living things within it.
- **EQUITY AND INCLUSION**
We believe that nature should be accessible to everyone, and we recognize that it is our responsibility to work towards overcoming inequities and to foster a culture of diversity and inclusion in nature and our communities, especially in Open Spaces.
- **LIFELONG LEARNING**
We foster continuous discovery and learning from others, our experiences, and the land.
- **TRANSPARENT COLLABORATION**
We aim to build positive relationships with co-workers, colleagues, volunteers, and our community while being open and honest about our priorities, actions, and reasons to grow our collective impact and innovation in our work together.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT VISION

Building on the existing legacy of Open Space, we envision the Open Space Division (OSD) as providing meaningful and equitable opportunities and experiences to grow environmental awareness and a sense of pride, belonging, ownership, and stewardship of the City of Albuquerque's Major Public Open Spaces.

To realize this, the OSD has built strong collaboration and ties with the other City of Albuquerque Departments and external partners, especially partners who work with communities that have been historically excluded, to host meaningful programs, services, and public engagement activities for the communities of Albuquerque with the most need.

Our impact and efforts are apparent not only through our programming and activities but also in how our workforce is reflective of the communities we aim to serve. Through an intentional process of early, meaningful, and ongoing engagement and input from those we serve, we can develop creative solutions to the problems facing our local ecosystems. Together, we are more strategic, relevant, and intentional in our reach to Albuquerque's citizens, especially our youth, to create meaningful experiences and inspire support and investment in Open Space and stewardship of the environment.

Through the efforts of OSD and its partners, we are sparking in every Albuquerque resident a personal sense of care and relationship with Open Space, our local ecosystems, and the environment. Hand in hand, we continue to build a community that respects and celebrates its cultural history while committing to an ethic of lasting stewardship to help create a sustainable future.



STRATEGIC PLAN'S GOALS AND PRIORITIES

Strategic Goals and Priority Areas were developed through a collaborative process between the Open Space Division and Office of Equity and Inclusion, input and discussion with partners and stakeholders, and guidance from City management.

Strategic Planning Goals	Priority Areas of Growth and Expansion
<p>Goal 1 - Increase Access to Major Public Open Space</p>	<p><u>Provide Accessible Places for All People</u></p> <p>The Open Space Division is committed to increasing access to all segments of the population, including people with various disabilities and life barriers. This can be accomplished through evaluating existing conditions and providing accessible facilities and trails, as well as working with the City's Community Therapeutic Recreation Programs. The OSD will embark on a collaborative and comprehensive accessibility and equity audit of OSD facilities and major trailheads. Additionally, the OSD will support the City's efforts to provide public transit to major trailheads and sees this as an essential public service. The OSD will also continue to pursue language access to support multi-lingual populations by providing translation services and education materials in different languages. Finally, the OSD will participate in the OEI staff training focused on working with diverse audiences.</p>
<p>Goal 2 - Grow the Relevancy and Impact of Education Programs</p>	<p><u>Increase Efforts to Reach Albuquerque Public School Students</u></p> <p>The OSD will work with the Bosque Ecosystem Monitoring Program to reach every 7th grader throughout Albuquerque Public Schools (APS) and alternative and charter schools. Additionally, the OSD will foster a deeper partnership with APS to provide field trips and stewardship activities throughout the City, prioritizing Title 1 and ABC Community Schools. Finally, the OSD will update the APS curriculum, Albuquerque's Environmental Story: Towards a Sustainable Community, to be culturally relevant for today's youth and aligned to state and Next Generation Science Standards.</p>

CITY'S GOALS

This strategic plan also aligns with the City of Albuquerque's Goals as presented in the 2017 Comprehensive Plan:

Goal 10.1 Facilities & Access
Provide parks, Open Space, and recreation facilities that meet the needs of all residents and use natural resources responsibly.

Goal 10.2 Parks
Provide opportunities for outdoor education, recreation and cultural activities that meet community needs, enhance quality of life, and promote community involvement for all residents.

Goal 10.3 Open Space
Protect the integrity and quality of the region's natural features and environmental assets and provide opportunities for outdoor recreation and education.

Goal 10.4 Coordination
Coordinate across disciplines, jurisdictions, and geographies to leverage limited resources, maximize efficiencies, and best serve the public's need for parks and recreation facilities.



STRATEGIC PLAN'S GOALS AND PRIORITIES CONTINUED

<p>Goal 3 - Increase a Sense of Belonging and Stewardship Through Outreach and Communication</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Education Outreach and Interpretation</u></p> <p>The OSD aims to present information on various platforms and in key locations to provide people with opportunities for meaningful engagement with MPOS. Messaging will include recreating responsibility, emphasizing stewardship, and highlighting the historical, cultural, and environmental significance of Open Space properties. The OSD will develop an overall signage plan consisting of a standard kiosk in English and Spanish and other languages that can be accessed through online platforms. The signage plan will also include interpretive signs at several locations throughout the city, including the Tijeras Bio-Zone, Rio Grande Bosque, San Antonio Oxbow, and Candelaria Nature Preserve.</p> <p>Additionally, the OSD will prioritize maintenance and improvements of the Open Space trail system through volunteer programs and youth employment.</p>
<p>Goal 4 - Grow Connections and Opportunities for Residents to Major Public Open Space</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Continue to Build on and Expand the Neighborhood Open Space Initiatives</u></p> <p>The OSD will continue to work with community partners to further the Neighborhood Open Space initiatives, which aim to connect residents to Open Space lands, nature, community gardens, and other natural areas. The OSD has developed several pilot programs intended to serve this purpose that will continue to be refined. The OSD will also pursue additional funding to expand programs like My Family First Camp Out, camps catered to Community Center youth, and youth internships. Additionally, the OSD will work with the Parks and Recreation Department to support the Neighborhood Park Activation program and collaborate with the OEI on community events.</p>
<p>Goal 5 - Collaborate with New and Long-Standing Community and City of Albuquerque Partners to Grow Collective Reach</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Foster Strong Community Partnerships</u></p> <p>The OSD will continue to foster strong partnerships and support environmental education and community providers in Albuquerque so that OSD programs are not redundant but complementary and leverage resources for the greatest impact. The OSD will also pursue funding for a new city position to further this effort and partner-led programs in MPOS. Additionally, the OSD will host a partnership summit coordinating with the OEI so the environmental education community may incorporate equity and inclusion in programs across the city.</p>
<p>Goal 6- Make Informed Decisions through Improved Evaluation and Studies</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Enhance Evaluation and Conduct a Visitor Use Study</u></p> <p>The OSD will improve the evaluation process for community engagement activities and education programs. The North American Association for Environmental Education has a nationally recognized evaluation program through its Guidelines for Excellence. This evaluation focuses on building capacity and community to create more just, inclusive, healthy partnerships, programs, and communities. Additionally, the OSD will work with OEI and use their toolkit to embed demographic data in pre- and post-programs and event and training surveys to ensure OSD reaches historically excluded neighborhoods and communities. Finally, the OSD will secure funding for a comprehensive visitor use study throughout Albuquerque to better understand who is utilizing MPOS, who is not, and the barriers to accessing MPOS. This study will help inform future decisions and planning for community programs and an updated MPOS Facility Use Plan.</p>



PROPOSED BUDGET TO IMPLEMENT THE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PLAN

Goal	Activity	Estimated Budget
Goal 1 - Increase Access to Major Public Open Space	Audit (one-time)	\$5,000
	Trailhead Improvements	\$10,000
	Language Access	\$20,000
Goal 2 - Grow the Relevancy and Impact of Education Programs	APS 7th Grade Program	\$75,000
	Curriculum (one-time)	\$50,000
Goal 3 - Increase a Sense of Belonging and Stewardship Through Outreach and Communication	Kiosks & Wayfinding	\$30,000
	Interpretive Signs	\$120,000
	Youth Conservation Corps	\$150,000
Goal 4 - Grow Connections and Opportunities for Residents to Major Public Open Space	My Family First Camp-out	\$40,000
	Youth Internships	\$75,000
Goal 5 - Collaborate with New and Long-Standing Community and City of Albuquerque Partners to Grow Collective Reach	Program Coordinator	\$73,400
	Parnter Programs in MPOS	\$150,000
	Partner Summit	\$5,000
Goal 6- Make Informed Decisions through Improved Evaluation and Studies	Visitor Use Survey (one-time)	\$50,000
Total		\$853,400



SUMMARY

This Community Engagement Plan will serve as a roadmap to the Open Space Division over the next five years. The plan allows the OSD to address the issues brought forth by the City Council in Resolution R-22-8, "...to work with the Office of Equity and Inclusion to make recommendations to City Council, including identifying operations funding needs for environmental education and recreation programs that will increase opportunities for socially equitable access and enjoyment of MPOS and other parks, trails and green spaces by all communities within the city."

Additionally, the Plan identifies current programs and practices that include the Neighborhood Open Space initiative and methods for a scaffolding approach to community engagement. The Plan explains the driving intent, values, and vision for the strategic plan. Finally, the plan outlines priority areas tied to six strategic goals, and the funding needed to implement the plan. This well-thought-out plan will enable the City to ensure Major Public Open Space is truly for all residents and foster a sense of belonging to and stewardship of our public lands into the future.





City of Albuquerque
Open Space Division

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PLAN

2023 - 2028



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