

# OPEN SPACE newsletter



Mayor Richard J. Berry

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

Volume 13, Issue 1, January - March 2012

## International Awards Recognizes Albuquerque Open Space *A Message from Mayor Richard J. Berry*

In the spring of 2011 the City of Albuquerque's Open Space Division (OSD) submitted a project to the "**International Awards for Liveable Communities**" (LivCom Awards) in Berkshire, England. Albuquerque's submission was "*Glass Gardens*" Environmental Restoration and Habitat Enhancement. This year the LivCom Awards committee announced that the City of Albuquerque was one of only a few cities in the United States chosen as a finalist for the Project Awards. Congratulations are due to the City's Open Space Division for receiving this important recognition.

The Glass Gardens, located near the National Hispanic Cultural Center, is an area of the Rio Grande's bosque that is slowly but surely being transformed from a neglected parcel to a natural refuge through the efforts of local organizations and citizen volunteers. After fires burned the Glass Gardens area in 2003 and 2010, the City of Albuquerque, in partnership with several private and public entities, took the opportunity to restore Glass Gardens to a more natural state, making it a place for the public to reconnect with the river. Through the course of the project, volunteers planted a variety of native vegetation.



Since the 2010 fire, literally hundreds of community members have participated in work days. National and local businesses, City and State agencies, varied community groups and clubs, and local schools have all joined the OSD to reforest the area with native vegetation and to improve recreational trails. Recent improvements made to the Glass Gardens site such as new pedestrian bridges and an improved trail system have also contributed to enhanced recreational opportunities in what is a traditionally underserved neighborhood. Additionally, in the Glass Gardens Project, the wood from burned trees was bucked and split into fireplace-ready logs. Nearly 300 cords of firewood were distributed to roughly 100 households in the community, many of which heat their homes primarily through the burning of wood. The City of Albuquerque's Department of Senior Affairs identified the families in need and set up a distribution center at one of their sites. During the extreme cold of last year's winter, this effort contributed greatly to the safety and well being of many people.

The Open Space Division organizes varied activities and encourages groups from every part of the City to get outdoors and participate. These activities have a very positive impact, especially among school aged groups. Children are deeply affected by caring for the land, which results in increased long-term environmental stewardship. In addition, when entire families participate in activities that enhance and improve their surroundings and communities, their love for the land is greatly enhanced. It is because of this bond that the Open Space Division's efforts have been, and will continue to be, so successful.

*The best to you and yours, and we look forward to seeing you out in your local Open Space in 2012!*

Best Wishes, Mayor Richard J. Berry.

## Fall Volunteer Project Wrap-up and Sponsor Thanks

On behalf of the Open Space Division, we would like to thank all the volunteers who contributed to the success of our fall volunteer projects. Now that winter is here, we can take a break and spend some time enjoying our accomplishments.

For **Día del Río**, over 70 dedicated volunteers came together to honor one of New Mexico's most precious natural resources, the Rio Grande. During the day volunteers, City Open Space staff, and our partner organizations Bernalillo County and the Army Corps of Engineers:

- Collected over 50 bags of trash from the bosque in addition to large miscellaneous debris including 20 tires.
- Sorted 5 bags of miscellaneous recycling including glass, cardboard, plastic bags, and aluminum.
- Created about 1/4 mile of new naturally surfaced trail and performed maintenance on an additional 1/4 mile of trail.
- Planted 100 native shrubs in a disturbed area of the bosque and in a wetland area of the Durand Open Space.
- Installed 2 new regulation signs for the Rio Grande Valley State Park.

Additionally, our partner organization **Quiet Water Paddling Adventures** hosted a river cleanup for Día del Río in Corrales with a total of 21 total volunteers.

The group extracted nine tires from the riverbed, as well as several other large objects, including a kid's tricycle, and numerous bags of assorted trash. A special thanks goes to **RESPEC Consulting and Services** for their generous sponsorship of Open Space events including Dia del Rio and National Trails Day.



**THANK  
YOU!  
Generous  
Sponsors**



On **Make a Difference Day**, which takes place in late October each year, about 50 volunteers joined the Open Space Division and our partner organization the Nicodemus Wilderness Project once again to work on improvements at the Piedra Lisa Open Space located in the Sandia Foothills at the end of Candelaria. Special thanks go to the Open Space Alliance for cosponsoring the event!

Events like Día del Río and Make a Difference Day bring the entire community together to help protect our City's precious natural resources. *Thank you all for your participation and we look forward to working with you next year!*

## OPEN SPACE NEWS

### *Trees, Rocks and Dirt: Interpretations of Nature by Volcano Vista High School*

*An Art Show Featuring the works of High School students  
responding to their experience of Open Spaces*

**When:** January-February 2012

**OPENING RECEPTION:** January 7th, 3-5pm

**Where:** Open Space Visitor Center, 6500 Coors Blvd., NW,  
(Between Montañó & Paseo del Norte at Bosque Meadows Rd.)  
505-897-8831

**Contact:** Joshua Willis, jrwillis@cabq.gov



Trees, Rocks and Dirt are essential components of what we consider “nature,” but why are these things worthy of conservation? In this unique art show, Volcano Vista High School Art Students respond to the value of Major Public Open Space lands within their city. A variety of media and interpretations will express the dialog these students have with Open Space properties such as the Petroglyph Monument, the West Mesa and the Bosque, all located near to the school.

Please join Open Space and Volcano Vista HS for this exciting event. An opening for the show will be take place on January 7th from 3-5 pm.

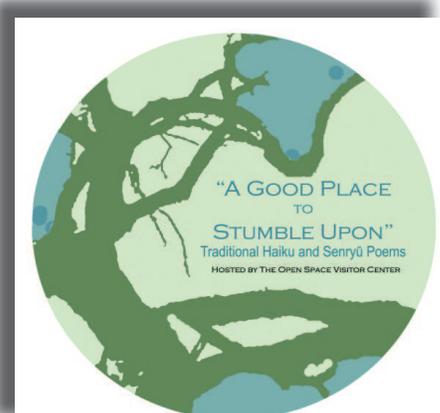
*A brief vignette of Open Space:* A Blue Tail lizard scurries under the arching and gnarled branches of a Juniper TREE in order to escape the grip of a Kestrel. The Kestrel’s young, tiny falcons freshly hatched from their shells squeal for their hunger to be satisfied. Their nest perched against the black basalt ROCKS of the West Mesa. Meanwhile, below the nest, an arroyo has formed from the last two years of heavy summer rains. A small Kangaroo Mouse has burrowed into the DIRT bank of the arroyo. From its dark cavern it nibbles on the roots of the desert vegetation that generously blankets this undisturbed canyon.

## Call for Poetry Submissions: “A Good Place to Stumble Upon” Traditional Haiku and Senryu

During the months of March and April 2012 Open Space will host a collection of haiku and senryu in a gallery setting. Poets may submit three to five traditional haiku or senryu consisting of no more than 17 syllables. Accepted work(s) will be placed on the walls of the gallery through April 2012. Deadline for entries is *January 31st 2012*.

**Note:** Applicants need to embody the City of Albuquerque’s Open Space Mission Statement within their submissions.

See [www.cabq.gov/openspace](http://www.cabq.gov/openspace) for a submission form or call 897-8831 for more information.



## JANUARY 2012

**\*ONGOING: FIRST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH, 7:30 AM. *Guided Bosque Nature Walk*.** Free. Registration is recommended one month in advance. Join biologist, naturalist and birder Elsa Bumstead for a guided walk into the riverside forest and discover this world away from the city.

Every Sunday. Winter hours: 9:00am -10:30am, *Yoga with a View*. Yoga with instructor Jenny Dominique. \$15.00 donation. A portion of the donation benefits the Open Space Alliance.

January-February 2012. *Trees, Rocks and Dirt, Volcano Vista HS*. High School Art Students respond to the value of Open Space within their city. Opening reception January 7th: 3-5pm. See page 3 for details.

**\*January 21. “Composting with Red Worms”** with Master Composter John Zarola, Outreach Coordinator of Master Composters: [www.nmcomposters.org](http://www.nmcomposters.org). See [www.cabq.gov/openspace](http://www.cabq.gov/openspace) for more details or call 897-8831.

January 31. *Haiku submission deadline for “A Good Place to Stumble Upon.”* See page 3 for details.

## FEBRUARY 2012

**\*ONGOING: FIRST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH, 7:30 AM. *Guided Bosque Nature Walk*.** See January listing.

Every Sunday, 9:00am -10:30am. *Yoga with a View*. See January listing.

ONGOING through February 28th, 2012. *Trees, Rocks and Dirt, Volcano Vista HS*. See January listing.

**\*February 4. *Home Composting Workshop*.** See [www.cabq.gov/openspace](http://www.cabq.gov/openspace) for more details or call 897-8831.

## MARCH 2012

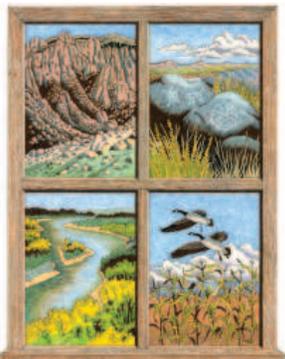
**\*ONGOING: FIRST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH, 7:30 AM. *Guided Bosque Nature Walk*.** See January listing.

Every Sunday, 9:00am -10:30am, *Yoga with a View*. See January listing.

March-April: *A Good Place To Stumble Upon*, Art and Poetry exhibit. Open for viewing March 3rd. Opening Reception on April 7th 3-5pm. See page 3 for more details.

**\*March 3. *Open Space Visitor Center Volunteer Training*.** Call 897-8831 for details and to register.

**\*March 10, 1-3pm. *River Goddess Workshop and Book Reading*.** See [www.cabq.gov/openspace](http://www.cabq.gov/openspace) for more details or call 897-8831.



**\*This event requires pre-registration.** Call 897-8831 or email: [openspace@cabq.gov](mailto:openspace@cabq.gov) to register.

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

*See [www.cabq.gov/openspace](http://www.cabq.gov/openspace) for an updated list of events at the Visitor Center and throughout the Open Space properties.*

## Volunteer Spot Light: How to Host Your Own Cleanup Project

~by Jim Sattler



Each year the Open Space Division organizes a variety of cleanup projects including National River Cleanup, Spring Cleanups in the Foothills, and National Trails Day to mention a few. In addition to these large events the Division works with school groups and scout troops at various sites throughout Open Space. Staff members also patrol and cleanup areas on a regular basis, but unfortunately we can't be everywhere when needed.

Recently, Trail Watch Volunteer Rick Hada, who regularly helps out on annual projects, organized his own cleanup at the Calabacillas Arroyo parking area in the bosque. Rick frequently uses this area located on the west side of the Rio Grande, about 1 mile north of Paseo del Norte and asked if it would be alright if he got some friends and neighbors together to do a cleanup project.

“We were very pleased with what we accomplished with a fairly small group of people. Hopefully it can serve as incentive to others to get a group of volunteers together to clean a specific area that might not otherwise get the attention”, Rick commented after the project.



Rick made arrangements with Open Space to get some trash and recycling bags, let us know what day he would be doing his cleanup and made arrangements for us to pick up the bags at a designated area. Rick also gave a short safety talk to his crew and they had a fun and productive day.

If you have a favorite area of Open Space where you would like to organize a cleanup project we encourage you to follow Rick's lead and contact Jim Sattler, 452-5213, [jsattler@cabq.gov](mailto:jsattler@cabq.gov) for more information.



### Spring Clean-up in the Sandia Foothills

Join us for our annual **Spring Clean-up in the Sandia Foothills**, every Saturday in April from 9:00AM to 1:00PM. Tasks include trash clean-up, graffiti removal, and trail maintenance. Meet at the following areas and bring water, work gloves, and dress for the weather. Arrive early for snacks and to sign in.

Call 452-5200 or email [kswanson@cabq.gov](mailto:kswanson@cabq.gov) for more information.

- .. April 7 – Copper Trailhead
- .. April 14 – Embudo Canyon (Indian School)
- .. April 21 – Menaul Picnic Area
- .. April 28 – Piedra Lisa Open Space (south of the east end of Candelaria)

## Volunteers needed at the Elena Gallegos and Boca Negra Canyon

Are you an early riser with free time in the mornings? Do you pace around the house after drinking a pot of coffee not knowing what to do with your time? Or do you enjoy watching the sunrise and getting out into Open Space before anyone else? If you answered yes to any of these, then we may have an opportunity for you. Open Space is looking for volunteers to help us open the Elena Gallegos Picnic Area and the Sandia Foothills trailheads, and Boca Negra Canyon in the Petroglyph National Monument.



The Elena Gallegos and Sandia Foothills opening shift starts at 6:00AM. Responsibilities include opening all 5 Sandia Foothill gates and the Elena Gallegos gate and restrooms, putting out fee envelopes, and putting up the flags. This takes about 1 hour after which you'd be free to take an early morning hike.

The Boca Negra Canyon opening shift starts at 8:00AM. Responsibilities include opening 4 gates at Boca Negra Canyon, opening the restrooms, putting out fee envelopes and putting up the flags. This takes about 20 minutes and leaves you plenty of time to enjoy exploring Petroglyph National Monument. Contact Jim Sattler at 452-5213 for more exciting details.

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## ***Munificent Benefaction at Los Poblanos Fields***

Recently, the Open Space Alliance was very pleasantly surprised to receive an un-solicited, thoughtful, and generous donation from prominent local attorney John Duhigg of the Duhigg Law Firm. John and his frequent companion Lucy (of the Labradoodle breed) are both enthusiastic and habitual users of the Los Poblanos farm trails. The purpose of the gift was to provide 'a bench or two' to give walkers (and their dogs) a place to sit and rest and contemplate the beauty of the natural world during strolls around Los Poblanos Fields (LPF).



Open Space staff is working closely with the nearby Tierra Viva Neighborhood Association, several motivated independent 'watchdog' citizens, and our contract farmers to be sure to achieve consensus on the location and type of bench(es) to be installed.

Of course at LPF – and at all of the various City 'Major Public Open Space' (MPOS) properties – dogs will be required to be kept on-leash, even during a rest-stop. Not only is this an Ordinance requirement in both the City of Albuquerque and in Bernalillo County, but it's *the right thing to do* in order to protect migratory waterfowl and other wildlife that call LPF home (or at least a primo stop-over point and resting place). Not surprisingly, un-restrained dogs can stress and otherwise have a profound negative impact on the lives of the resident birds, and especially mothers and chicks.

So, watch this space (LPF)! Shouldn't be long until you (and your pooch) can break up your constitutional walk around the farm, sit down, have a sip (or bowl) of water, and lean back, cross your legs, and admire the sunset on the Sandias, or watch some flocks of cranes or ducks fly in and land in the farm fields and begin their supper. A big *Thanks!* to John Duhigg (and Lucy) for your community-minded gift! (We could use about a hundred like you two!)

## Get Into Open Space with Winter Bosque Reforestation Projects



Open Space manages almost 30,000 acres of land which includes 17 miles of the Rio Grande corridor. We wouldn't be able to manage it all without the help of numerous, dedicated groups of volunteers, some of whom have adopted particular areas and others who want an educational experience and to assist with our activities.

Bosque reforestation volunteer projects with pole plantings (long, straight branches of cottonwoods and willows) make great service learning projects for school classes and groups. This gets everyone outside, teaches an appreciation for some of our amazing natural resources, and promotes a bond with the land that we hope will be carried on through future generations.

To get more information about these projects or to schedule a date, please contact Bill Pentler, 452-5222. Planting season begins in January and lasts through March. These are popular events and dates fill up quickly with only a set number of trees planted per area so call now. To add to the rush, we have limited funds from an REI grant to provide a bus for service projects. Please fill out the information at the website listed below for a "Get Into Open Space Bus Scholarship."

[www.cabq.gov/openspace/getintoopenspace.html](http://www.cabq.gov/openspace/getintoopenspace.html)

## 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](mailto: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**



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OR CURRENT RESIDENT

# Open Space News

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**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**