Site Improvement Plan & Feasibility Study Purpose

1. Identify existing needs and site improvements

2. Evaluate the feasibility of an Education Center within the Foothills of the Sandia Mountains that will celebrate the Open Space assets and create a venue that can be used for educational and community purposes.
Public Planning Process

1. Planning Team

Dekker/Perich/Sabatini Architecture:
Will Gleason, Kate Maliskas, Ken Roaming

Parks & Rec./OSD:
Dave Simon, Colleen McRoberts, Jim Sattler, Tricia Keffer and Christina Sandoval

Aziza Chavez, Analyst for Councilor Trudy Jones

Advisory Committee:
• Richard & Colleen Shackley, OS Trail Watch
• John Goodwin, OS Alliance
• Donald Meaders, OS Advisory Board
• Rachel Swanteson-Franz, The Wilderness Society
• Art Gardenswartz, High Desert HOA

2. Public Meeting on July 21, 2021

3. Survey from July 21 - August 31, 2021

Foothillseducationcenter.com
Recent improvements

- Park Attendant Booth- painted, and repaired sheet rock on the roof as well as patio, floor and wall repairs
- Cottonwood Spring- cleared cattails, and made minor improvements to the spring box
- Cottonwood Springs parking area – added 6 spaces by squaring off the north side
- Trail maintenance and reroute- ongoing trail maintenance and trail 230 reroute with USFS
- Maintenance road- conducted drainage and erosion control on the north end of maintenance road 342 (1,500 ft.)
- Road- repaved 800 linear feet of road and two parking areas
Existing Facilities

- Reservation Areas- general upgrades to structures, furnishings and repave trails
- Public Picnic Areas- general upgrades to outdoor furnishings
- Park Attendant Booth Improvements: wifi and storage
- Signage: kiosks, wayfinding and interpretation
- Vault Toilets- from 1983
Roads & Parking

- Expand capacity
- Repave and restripe
- ADA parking
Cottonwood Springs & Nature Trail

- Bridges – 3, all need repairs
- Wildlife blind repairs
- Interpretive signs
- Concrete path
- Spring and pond improvements
- Erosion mitigation
Corral & Barn

Tear down barn to ensure safety
Elena Gallegos Picnic Area Proposed Improvements
City of Albuquerque Open Space Division

- Reservation Areas: update & improve ADA accessibility
- Picnic Areas: provide ADA accessibility where possible
- Vault Toilets: update and
- Corral & Barn: Remove Barn to Improve Safety
- Wildlife Blind: replace latias &
- Pond: improve water
- Park Attendant
- Parking Area: repave and
- Bridges: replace
- Cottonwood Springs Trail: concrete
- repair and erosion control to improve ADA accessibility
- Repave
Valle De Oro Visitor Center:
10,065 Square Feet

**Pros:**
- Separate Building for Restrooms
- Separate Classroom Building
- Higher Occupancy
- Flexibility
- Newly Constructed

**Cons:**
- Large Footprint
- Larger Staffing Requirements
- Larger Budget
- More Maintenance
Open Space Visitor Center: Approximately 5,775 Square Feet

Pros:
- Adequate Space Available for Visitor Volume
- Adaptive Reuse
- Juxtaposition of historic and educational elements
- Spectacular Views to Bosque, Sandia Mountains

Cons:
- Underutilized Space
- Small Rooms
- Small Restrooms
- Confusing Layout
Rio Grande Nature Center
Original building was 4,910 sq ft
2 expansions since original construction

Pros:
• Separate Classroom Building (Added after Initial Construction)
• Architecturally Significant
• Centrally Located within City
• Spectacular setting in Bosque

Cons:
• Acoustics
• Too Small for Visitor Volume
• Restrooms Inside Main Building
• Constrained Parking
Bachechi Environmental Education Building
Approximately 2,327 Square Feet

Pros:
• Minimal Staffing Requirements
• Less Maintenance Required
• Spectacular Setting in Bosque
• Designed for Energy Efficiency

Cons:
• Too Small for Volume of Visitors
• Small Restrooms
• Restrooms not Detached
• Acoustics

PRECEDEENT PROJECTS
Comparative Site Analysis

- **6 sites** at Elena Gallegos Open Space were evaluated
- **Evaluation Criteria** included:
  - Vehicular Access
  - Impacts on Immediate Site and Adjacent Areas (cultural resources, natural resources)
  - Circulation and Parking (existing and potential)
  - Infrastructure Connections
  - Viewsheds
  - Neighborhood Impact
  - Site Suitability (proximity to open space, attraction to visitors)
Loop Road Map
### Scoring Matrix

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Site 1A Cottonwood Springs</th>
<th>Site 1B Cottonwood Springs</th>
<th>Site 2 Park Attendant Booth</th>
<th>Site 3 Inner Loop Rd</th>
<th>Site 4 Pino Trail</th>
<th>Site 5 South Loop Rd</th>
<th>Site 6 Tramway Blvd</th>
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<tr>
<td>Vehicular Access</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
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<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Impacts on Immediate Site and Adjacent Areas (Including Cultural Resources and Floodplain)</td>
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<td>2</td>
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<td>Circulation and Parking</td>
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<td>Infrastructure Connections</td>
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<td>Viewsheds</td>
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<td>Neighborhood Impact</td>
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<tr>
<td>Site Suitability</td>
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<td><strong>17</strong></td>
<td><strong>14</strong></td>
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<td><strong>16</strong></td>
<td><strong>14</strong></td>
<td><strong>13</strong></td>
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</table>

Criteria is scored from 1 to 3 with 1 indicating poor and 3 indicating good.
Preferred Site Option: Site 1B

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CRITERIA</th>
<th>SCORE</th>
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<td>Vehicular Access</td>
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<td>Site Suitability</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>17</strong></td>
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</table>

**Legend**
- Roads
- Trails
- Hiker-Only Trails
- Elena Gallegos Open Space Boundary
- Drainage
- Contours (2-ft)
- Facilities
- Vehicular Access
- Existing Parking with Available Spaces
- Trailhead
- Floodplain
Preferred Site Option: Site 3
Site/Building Programming

• Identify space needs and generate a corresponding conceptual building footprint and site plan
• Intended to accommodate a range of activities, be flexible in its layout, and be designed to minimize energy consumption
Floorplan Sketch & Site 3 Circulation
Site 1B Circulation
Simms Park Rd Analysis
Road Sections

Existing Simms Park Road Section

Potential Simms Park Road Section
ELENA GALLEGOS
OPEN SPACE
SITE IMPROVEMENTS

Project website: FoothillsEducationCenter.com

Contact Open Space Division by email:
openspace@cabq.gov