

OPEN SPACE

newsletter



Mayor Timothy M. Keller

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

Volume 19, Issue 1, January - March 2018

Director Barbara Taylor Set To Retire

Brandon Gibson

The Director of the Parks and Recreation Department, Barbara Taylor, is set to retire at the beginning of the year. During her time with the City of Albuquerque, Director Taylor's leadership and support of the Open Space Division led to the planning and completion of numerous projects.

One of the most important accomplishments during her tenure as Director was the design and development of the *bosque* ADA trail, the Rio del Norte Trail. This crusher fine trail runs from the overlook deck at Tingley Beach to Montañito Road, and provides people of all abilities opportunity to better enjoy the *bosque* and Rio Grande.

Director Taylor has also worked with the community and the City Council to set aside current and future funding to protect the Petroglyph National Monument. The goal is to acquire over sixty acres of land for

preservation as Open Space in the La Cuentista area, north of the current monument boundary. Along with former Mayor Berry, Director Taylor has served as an advocate for developing future environmental stewards of the land and resources in Albuquerque.



Former Mayor Richard Berry, Acting Open Space Superintendent Brandon Gibson, Director Barbara Taylor at a recent press conference.

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www.cabq.gov/openspace

Follow the Open Space Visitor Center online!



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For the past three years, special funding has been acquired to operate the Bosque Youth Corps. During the summer of 2017, the Bosque Youth Corps planted native trees, grasses and shrubs, pruned and trimmed over two miles of *bosque* trails, and participated in a variety of environmental education opportunities.

Barbara Taylor's dedication to the protection of our public lands will have a lasting impact for future generations in the Albuquerque area.



Rio del Norte Trail
Photo by Brandon Gibson

Save the Date! 9th Annual ABQ Recycled Art Fair

city of albuquerque
OPEN SPACE VISITOR CENTER
presents:

9th annual
ABQ RECYCLED ART FAIR 2018
april 14th and 15th 10am - 4pm

art vendors

live music

youth market

fun contests

6500 COORS BLVD NW 505-897-8831 TTY 711

a collaboration between the City's Open Space Visitor Center, Valle de Oro NWR and Friends, plus new exciting partners!



Open Space Staff: New and Improved!

Welcome Kyle Bality, our new Education Coordinator!

Kyle Bality is the newest member of the Open Space crew and is taking over Bill Pentler's previous position as Education Coordinator. He first gained interest in working with Open Space doing trail construction on the San Antonito property for his Eagle Project in 2011, and started working with the Division as crew leader for the Bosque Youth Corps beginning summer 2015. Kyle is excited to join Open Space and work with the present and future stewards of our public lands.

Kyle graduated from the University of New Mexico where he studied Environmental Planning and Design. He is from the northeast heights of Albuquerque, and grew up exploring the Foothills and *bosque*. His favorite property is Golden, but he is looking forward to getting acquainted with the other East Mountain properties.



*Kyle at last year's Make A Difference Day at Piedra Lisa
Photo by Bill Pentler*



*Kim at the Open Space Visitor Center
Photo by Bill Pentler*

Congratulations to Kim Selving, Administrative Assistant!

Kim Selving, a well-known face at the Visitor Center since 2008, was recently promoted to an administrative position at Open Space's Montessa Park office. Kim was a jack-of-all-trades at the Visitor Center and supported programming through a variety of activities, from working at the front desk to taking care of the garden to helping plan events, including the first Sandhill Crane Celebration. She's looking forward to helping the Division run smoothly in her new position through timekeeping, purchasing, and reservations.

Kim grew up in Albuquerque and studied Rhetoric and French at the University of New Mexico before moving to France; after that she lived in the Bay area, Mexico City, Idaho, and Seattle, where she decided she wanted to get more involved with environmental education. Kim moved back to Albuquerque when she got her position at the Visitor Center. Kim's favorite Open Space property, like Kyle and many other staff, is Golden.

Fall 2017 “Bike Hikes”

Joelle Collier & Nadine Guillén, Open Space Volunteers

When I became an Open Space volunteer in 2009, I came to treasure our monthly volunteer hikes led by staff or senior volunteers to different locations in our vast Open Space system. I learned much about each site we visited, gaining an appreciation for the unique qualities of each. But while these hikes were, naturally, on foot,

hikes” during October, they were enthusiastic. So I planned three hikes, for which I was joined by two other volunteers, Kenneth Hansson and Nadine Guillén. For the first bike hike on October 6th, we set out from Pueblo Montañó OS, crossing the river to the Aldo Leopold Trail with its many markers documenting the life and



Photo by Joelle Collier

I have since completed the majority of my Trail Watch duties by bike. While I bike all over the city, riding the nearly 16-mile long Paseo del Bosque Trail has been an especially fine way to travel between numerous OS locations beside the Rio Grande quickly and easily. But a little more than a year ago, the city greatly expanded its network of unpaved trails that go deep into the *bosque*. I found that these wide trails, designed to create greater accessibility, are perfect for bikes - road bikes as well as mountain bikes. And I was so enchanted by the experience of riding on them that I wanted to share it with other volunteers.

When I approached Kent Swanson and Dionne Epps with the idea of a series of volunteer “bike

accomplishments of this pioneer of conservation. We continued on to the section of the trail across from the Rio Grande Nature Center, which includes several informational signs detailing the history of the river and the *bosque*. Our third bike hike on October 26th was also in the *bosque*. We met at the plaza where Campbell Street accesses the Paseo del Bosque Trail and rode our bikes south, meandering through the woods, through meadows, along the river, until we reached the picnic area beside the Botanic Garden at Central. For this ride, the fall foliage was at its peak.

I designed these two bike hikes in the *bosque* to be moderately easy ones; but in between, I planned a more challenging one: on October 13th, we tackled the Paseo de la Mesa Trail, which requires a fair amount of uphill biking. This area on the West Mesa is not as frequently visited as other OS sites; but it affords such spectacular views across to the Sandias, to the volcanoes off to the South, and to the city below that it’s well worth the effort.

I greatly enjoyed leading these rides; and if other volunteers are interested in participating, I’d be happy to plan some more bike hikes in the spring.

-Joelle Collier

Bike Hikes continued

October, a perfect time of year for a bike hike! The air is crisp and cool, perfect for enjoying spectacular views along the Paseo del Bosque Trail and Paseo de la Mesa Trail. I can't decide which trail is my favorite - the one with the beautiful canopy of cottonwood trees bursting with brilliant shades of yellow, or the one that offers flat stretches, challenging inclines, along with great panoramic views of the volcanoes and surrounding mountain ranges and peaks. Aw, the memories.

Our hike leader, Joelle Collier, led each hike with flexibility to meet each rider's desires and abilities, and with the freedom to pause at any time to take in the magnificent scenery. She shared details about the wildlife, geography, and history of the areas we rode through. Joelle provided support, mechanical assistance, tips on riding techniques, and directions as needed. She made our bike hikes truly special. I would love to do it all again! A big thank you to Albuquerque Open Space management for offering such enjoyable activities in our beautiful backyard.
-Nadine Guillén

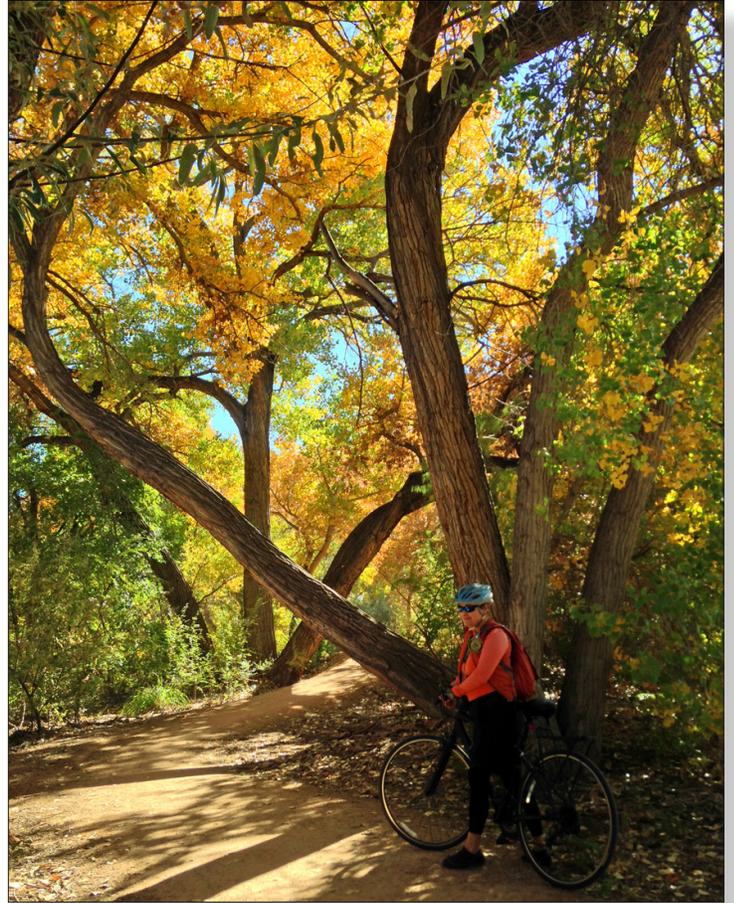


Photo by Nadine Guillén



*Volunteers at the 2017 Indian School Trailhead Clean-up
Photo by Bill Pentler*

Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities

Mark your calendars for this spring's volunteer events!

Spring Clean-ups:

(Volunteers should arrive at 8:30AM, projects last until noon)

March 31 – Rt 66 Open Space

April 7 – Copper

April 14 – Indian School

April 21 – Menaul Picnic Area

April 28 – Piedra Lisa Open Space

Note that parking is limited at all locations, so please car pool if you can. To make arrangements for groups of five or more, please contact Jim Sattler at 452-5213 or jsattler@cabq.gov.

News From the Far Side (of Open Space): A Golden Moment

Jim Sattler

For those of you who don't venture too far from the city limits, you may not know that there are 3,400 acres of Open Space on the east side of the mountains that are strung out along Highways 14 and 337. The Golden Open Space is the northern most and exudes a raw beauty of mesas and canyons, with multi-colored rock formations, and dotted with twisted and stunted junipers. It is a landscape shaped by faults, uplifts, sedimentary deposits and erosion. It is a land of sweeping vistas that take in the Sandia Mountains, the San Pedro Mountains, the Ortiz Mountains, the Jemez Mountains and the Sangre de Cristo Mountains. When the rains come, the mesas are blanketed in a variety of wildflowers that include snake weed, Blackfoot daisy, wild four o'clock, verbena, arnica, gay feather, and spiderwort, to

name a few. The Golden Open Space is also rich in human history. A history that includes ancestral pueblo peoples, Spanish and Mexican land grants, territorial era mining and ranching, and even the remains of a railroad built in the 1920s. All of this natural and cultural history makes the Golden Open Space a unique area and worth the drive.



*A view from Golden Open Space
Photo by Jim Sattler*

An Update on the Golden Trail System

Jim Sattler

This season, volunteers and Duendes worked alongside Open Space staff to build 1.1 miles of a 1.7-mile trail that will be the last link in the Golden trail system. This trail will take visitors from the South Mesa down to the San Pedro Creek. The remaining .6 mile of trail is expected to be completed during the summer of 2018. When completed there will be approximately ten miles of trail, and a round trip on all the trails would be approximately fifteen miles!

If you plan on visiting the Golden Open Space for the first time, be prepared for rugged terrain and steep rocky sections. It can be a long hike or ride so be prepared and follow these helpful tips:

- Tell someone where you plan to hike or ride
- Bring a cell phone, but service can be spotty
- Print a map from the Open Space website
- Bring plenty of water
- Dress appropriately for changing weather
- Check the weather report before you start
- Use caution during the monsoon season; once you are in the canyons you can't see storms approaching.

Remember to stay on designated trails, and remember that archaeological sites are protected, so please do not remove any artifacts! Otherwise you will have to answer to the Duendes.

Photos Around Open Space



*Clockwise from top left:
Return of the Sandhill Crane Festival at the Open
Space Visitor Center, November 2017; Photo by Bill
Pentler*

*Dia del Rio at Shining River, October 2017; Photo by
Bill Pentler*

Sunset at the Open Space Visitor Center

*Piedras Marcadas Open Space at Petroglyph National
Monument*



Have an Open Space photo you'd like to share with the community? E-mail Tricia at tkeffer@cabq.gov.

Reserving Open Space Properties

Kim Selving

As 2017 draws to an end, the requests to reserve picnic areas at the Elena Gallegos and Carolino Canyon are just ramping up. The Open Space Division begins taking requests on November 1st for the following calendar year. In 2017, Open Space staff opened over 200 envelopes and answered hundreds of calls from people eager to reserve these locations. What are these areas and why are they so popular? What is the process?



*Hundreds of reservation requests were received by mail in 2017
Photo by Kim Selving*

The Elena Gallegos park is host to thousands of visitors per year. There are two reservation areas, Kiwanis and Double Shelter. Whether it is a family reunion, a wedding, or a company picnic, the Open Space Foothills provide a beautiful and unique setting for the gathering. One family has been celebrating joint birthdays in their family for 34 years, and a local organization brings participants from all over the world to an icebreaker before an intensive course. These visitors' first impressions of the City of Albuquerque is the Elena Gallegos park with its stunning views, multiple trails, and botanical diversity. Parking fees may be paid by the visit or with an annual pass that can be purchased for \$26.40; annual passes are also accepted at Boca Negra Canyon. If you were good this year, you may even have received an annual pass in your stocking.

Carolino Canyon is a remote, wooded picnic area located in the East Mountains on Highway 337. Amenities include two picnic shelters, grills, restrooms, electricity, water, shaded tables, and a playing field which can be used for volleyball, tetherball, and horseshoes. Carolino Canyon is available for reservations May-September. It is ideal for large gatherings of up to 250 people, and is the only Open Space property where camping is permitted.

Reservations can be made by contacting Kim Selving. More information can be found on the web at <https://www.cabq.gov/parksandrecreation/open-space/facilities/rental-facilities>.

Out of respect for our wildlife and human neighbors, there is no amplified sound in Open Space. We also encourage a Leave No Trace ethic.



*A rustic picnic shelter at Carolino Canyon
Photo by Bill Pentler*

The Duende Onion

Happy Holidays from El Duende

El Duende took a little Thanksgiving trip to visit some cousins who are garden gnomes in the Texas Hill Country. The Hill Country is a beautiful part of Texas with rolling hills, creeks, huge live oak trees, and lots of schnitzel. But after being away for two weeks El Duende was starting to feel a little out of shape and was homesick for all the public lands and hiking opportunities that Albuquerque and New Mexico have to offer. They say everything is big in Texas, but not their Open Space programs. So this year, El Duende remembered to give thanks for the 29,000 plus acres of Open Space that the City of Albuquerque manages.

Of course Thanksgiving is just the start of the holiday season and El Duende enjoys all that the holidays have to offer: the celebrations, the gatherings, the family, the friends, and especially all of the feasts with tamales, posole, latkes, sufganiyot and pfeffernussen. But one thing El Duende enjoys most of all is the opportunity to share the gift of nature with friends and family by taking them on long hikes in the Foothills, the *bosque*, the Petroglyphs, or the East Mountains. It's a great way to get some exercise and walk off all those holiday treats. Then after romping around on a good winter hike why not warm up at the Open Space Visitor Center? While you're at the Visitor Center don't forget to see the winter solstice Mandala, and always take a moment to be thankful for our incredible Open Space program!

Happy Holidays,
E.D.



Local guest contributor to your most reliable source of fake Open Space news

Elf Suspected in Graffiti Incident

Open Space Resource Protection staff apprehended a teenage elf who is suspected of spray painting disparaging remarks about Santa Claus on boulders at the Piedra Lisa Open Space. The elf, who was not named because of his age, recently quit his job at Santa's Workshop to pursue a career in dentistry and has been living with an aunt and uncle in Albuquerque. Open Space staff psychiatrist Dr. Karl von Steiner was on hand to speak with the young elf. According to von Steiner, "He is an emotionally confused adolescent elf who appears to be venting his angst and frustrations. You might say he sees himself as a rebel without a Claus."

Featured Events at the Visitor Center

The Open Space Visitor Center is free and open to the public Tuesday-Sunday, 9am-5pm.



Gallery "Edge Effect" Art Exhibit Opening Reception

Saturday, January 6, 2:00 pm-4:00 pm

Luna Project, a group of twelve artists exhibiting since 2003, hosts an Opening Reception for their new exhibit "Edge Effect" at the Open Space Visitor Center Gallery from 2:00 to 4:00 pm, Saturday, January 6th, 2018. The show includes, 2-d work, pottery, hanging sculpture and book arts and runs through the end of March. The gallery is open 9:00 to 5:00, Tuesday-Sunday.

The "Edge Effect" is the area where two things join and creativity occurs. YoYo Ma describes it as the place where innovation happens, and in the environment it is the influence that two ecological communities have on each other along the boundary that separates them. In this exhibit, each Luna Project artist explores an area of "Edge Effect" in an Albuquerque Open Space Lands property and

responds. The Luna Project artists are Ruth Cohen, Lauri Dickinson, Mary Dornacker, Cate Eaves, Nance Elsinger, Marta Light, Joani Murphy, Margy O'Brien, Nancy Rutland, Phyllis Benia Salazar, Kris Thacher and Alice Webb. Visit them at thelunaproject.org. The exhibit runs through March 25th.

Bosque Wild: Guided Nature Walk

Sunday, January 7th, 9:00am-11:00am; FREE!

The Middle Rio Grande river valley is nature's laboratory with a different lesson plan every season. This is a moderately strenuous guided hike along the shady banks of the river and through one of the largest cottonwood forests in the world. **Space is limited. Please call 897-8831 for more information and to register.**



Composting with Worms

Saturday, January 13th, 9:00am-11:00am; FREE!

The Bernalillo County Extension Master Composters Program will teach you the basics of composting with red worms. Learn how to use this clean and highly efficient process to turn organic waste such as food scraps and paper products into high quality compost. **Space is limited. Please call 897-8831 for more information and to register.**



6500 Coors Blvd NW Albuquerque, NM 87120
between Montaño and Paseo del Norte at the end of Bosque Meadows Rd.
 Tuesday - Sunday 9:00 am - 5:00 pm **897-8831**
 Open Space Visitor Center on facebook @ABQOpenSpace on twitter
www.cabq.gov/openspace

More Events at the Open Space Visitor Center

Visit www.cabq.gov/openspace for more information

Open Space Explorer Packs *Ongoing*

Children and children at heart can stop by the Open Space Visitor Center to check out an Open Space Explorer Pack and experience the natural wonders we have to offer. The backpacks are intended to get families outside and in nature to learn about plants, animals, and cultural resources found within Open Space. Each backpack is filled with exciting self-guided activities. The packs are available for use Tuesdays-Sundays and must be returned by 4:30pm. Call 897-8831 to reserve a backpack for a particular time and day.



Open Space Alliance Annual Meeting *February 2018*

More details forthcoming on the Open Space website.

Your Three Fold Legacy Workshop *Saturday, January 27th*

Qigong and Yoga sessions *Sundays throughout the month*

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 Steve Glass, OSA Board President, at: president@openspacealliance.org.

To join, please fill out the information and return the form with your check or money order.

NAME: _____ DATE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP CODE: _____

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- NEW MEMBER \$15 STUDENT (18 & UNDER) \$30 FAMILY \$250 SUSTAINING
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Monday through Friday

(505) 452-5200

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Summer: 7:00 am to 9:00 pm

all week

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9:00 am to 5:00 pm

Tuesday - Sunday

TO REPORT VIOLATIONS

242-COPS

Open Space Division

P.O. Box 1293

Albuquerque, NM 87103

