

OPEN SPACE newsletter



Mayor Richard J. Berry

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

Volume 16, Issue 3, July-September 2015



Tony Barron, Bosque Preservationist 1953 - 2015

By Matthew Schmader, Ph.D.

Anthony Barron, Open Space advocate and tireless worker to improve conditions in Albuquerque's bosque, passed away on June 26th at the age of 62. Known affectionately to many simply as "Tony," his quick wit and love of nature was infectious to the many people he touched during his long career. Tony started working for the City of Albuquerque Parks Department November 15th, 1982 and put in 32 years of service—more than half of his life. He loved to recall the times when the Open Space Division first started in 1984, working out of a trailer at Pino Yards and driving old salvaged pick-up trucks.

Among Tony's many passions and contributions was his love of Albuquerque's riverside forest known locally as the *bosque*. When the Rio Grande Valley State Park was established in 1983, he was among the first to clear out many tons of trash and debris and restrict vehicle access. His design for gates and barriers using simple and inexpensive materials is still in place. Tony was very aware of the damage caused by the unmitigated use of vehicles in the bosque and in Albuquerque's other natural areas. He applied the same principals when areas of the Sandia foothills were acquired and rampant dirt-biking was brought under control. Tony was the driving force in perfecting high-tensile fencing for Open Space boundaries, a technique still widely used today.

Perhaps Tony's greatest legacy was the restoration of the bosque. Early in his career, he learned of a method for planting cottonwood trees called "pole planting," which involves placing a dormant branch into the ground until it reaches the water table. When he first learned of the technique it was not widely used and was not efficient. Tony raised pole planting to a skill and an art form, modifying the technique to become extremely effective, enabling staff and volunteers to plant 1,000 trees each winter with very high survival rates. In his career, Tony oversaw the planting of perhaps 25,000 or more cottonwoods, starting with some of the burned areas that occurred in the 1980s. When hikers and trail users go past restored areas of the bosque, they are witnessing the initiatives that Tony Barron brought to make our riverside forest healthier and to provide lasting generations of healthy cottonwood trees. Tony was just as comfortable with a story or a humorous anecdote, with ideas about land management or facility design, with a gentle word of encouragement or with sage advice. He will be greatly missed by his Open Space family.

A Message from Mayor Richard J. Berry

As spring wanes and the long days of summer descend upon us, I marvel at the changes that are occurring in the City. The rare spring rains have greened up Albuquerque more than I have seen in many years with both the Sandia Mountains and Volcanoes standing out with emerald hues.

New growth is popping up throughout the foothills and Bosque but it's not just a show of wildflowers. We've also been cultivating a new crop of stewards to protect and preserve areas within and around Albuquerque.



The City Parks and Recreation Open Space Division has introduced the Bosque Summer Youth Program (see page 11). We have hired eighteen youths to remove invasive species in designated restoration areas, seed grasses, install signage, and remove trash and old construction debris. Through this unique program we are creating paying jobs for young men and women willing to take this role of leadership for the summer.

The rains have also offset the fire season and taken us from extreme conditions to general drought status which means we still have to be aware of factors around us and careful with our summertime activities. This is not necessarily a limiting factor as entertainment and an assortment of events are happening all over town beyond the endless opportunities for hiking and recreation. Summerfest, farmers markets, concerts and events at the Botanic Garden and museums, the Open Space Visitor Center (OSVC) Explorer and Story Hour Series, the hikes and events of the Open Space Summer Series, and a myriad of other activities that are too numerous to list but only take a search of the City website or Community calendars to find.

So here's to the hunt, the search, or quest of finding the exact thing that interests and inspires you to explore further and enjoy all this fine city has to offer. And here's to the long days of summer that fill you with joy and lasting memories.

Sincerely,

Hellos and Goodbyes

The Open Space Division has several new employees to welcome. Enrique Chavez is on the Construction and Maintenance crew as an Equipment Operator 1. Enrique will be helping with bosque restoration projects, general maintenance and other projects in and around Open Space. Meanwhile there have been several lineup changes on the Bosque crew and the Visitors Services crew. We congratulate Matthew Peterson on his promotion to the Open Space Forester position. Matthew has been with the OSD for over a year as a temporary employee on the Bosque crew.

John Keliiaa has transferred from a temporary Park Attendant position to a temporary Bosque position. John has been working with the OSD for just over a year. Meanwhile the Visitor Services section welcomes Sam Garcia as a temporary Park Attendant. Sam had been working as a temporary for the Construction and Maintenance section.



Edwin Zamora at work in the Foothills

The Division bids farewell to Edwin Zamora who has been with the OSD since 1991. Edwin will be retiring at the end of July. Edwin has been an important member of the Division with extensive knowledge of Open Space and a wide variety of skills. “Ed’s the kind of guy who can fix anything, even pets,” a coworker observed. We also say goodbye to Eric Peterson who has taken a job with Los Alamos Open Space and looks forward to working with the Atomic Duendes who live in the area. Eric has been getting up bright and early to have the Elena Gallegos open by 6:00AM for 4 years and has been involved in numerous volunteer projects.

The Open Space Division is also sad to announce that long time trail building volunteer Duff McAbney has decided to retire from the Open Space trail crew. “My age is starting to catch up to me and even simple tasks are becoming difficult. In fact last night my wife and I were making dinner and I strained my linguini.”

The Open Space Visitor Center enthusiastically welcomes Noel Chilton to the staff team as the new Open Space Coordinator. An Albuquerque native, Noel is a talented artist and a knowledgeable ecologist with a Masters degree from UNM in Museum Studies. Fluent in Spanish and Italian, she has traveled extensively exploring theater and art around the world and spending 12 years in Oaxaca, Mexico as an art teacher and art center director.

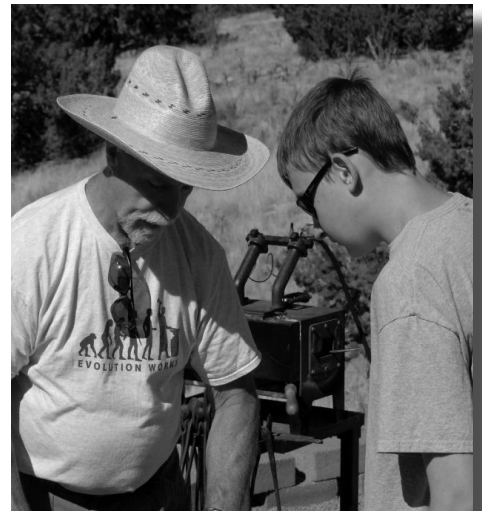


Responsible for developing educational programming at the OSVC including school and public programming and educational exhibits, Noel says she “strives to inspire creativity and transmit a message in fun and interesting ways.” Come meet Noel and see her unique, fun flare. The custom puppet theater with three inter-changeable Open Space sceneries she designed and painted is worth the trip alone!

Open Space Summer Series

Saturday SUNSET SERIES at Elena Gallegos Picnic Area. Saturdays at 7:00pm.

- **July 18th: 25 Years on Borrowed Time** – Offerings and animal stories by Open Space's Bill Pentler.
- **July 25th: The Basics of Water Wise Xeric Gardening** - A talk by Dianne Rand, docent for the Xeric Garden Club Tours and the Albuquerque Garden Center.
- **August 1st: Blues Jam With The SW Blues Network** - An open mike jam format led by Dug Corpolongo. Bring your acoustic instruments and favorite songs. Join in!
- **August 8th: Poetry and Spoken Word** – A wonderful evening of offerings from a collection of talented artists led by Gina Marselle.
- **August 15th: An Evening of Medieval Tales and Traditional Ballads** – Innovative music and remarkable stories with Scott and Johanna Hongell-Darsee and special guests. Find out more about them at : www.hongelldarsee.com.
- **August 22nd: NIMBUS-** "A Magical New Mexico Experience" in performance of Native Style Flute music, drums, poetry and storytelling!
- **August 29th: Solving a Haunting.** A lecture by members of the Southwestern Ghost Hunter's Association.



SUNDAY HIKES - On Sundays, starting at 9:00 a.m., unless stated otherwise.

Please call Bill Pentler at 452-5222 for pre-registration and directions will be given at that time.

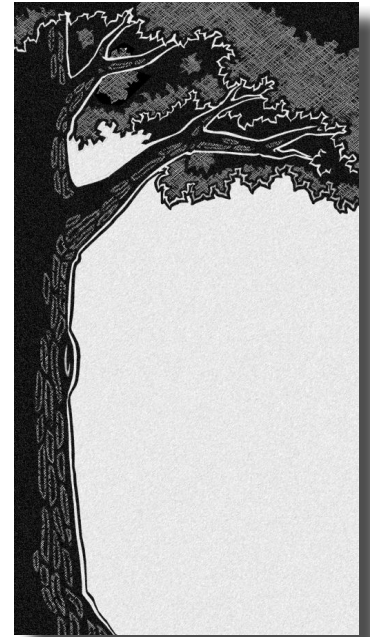
- **July 19th: Candelaria Farms Hike** – Meet at 8:30 am. A moderate hike in one of Open Space's outlying properties that is not usually open to the public. Bring water and whatever you need for a comfortable hike. Pre-registration Required
- **July 26th: Introduction to GPS** – Meet at 8:30 am. Elena Gallegos Cottonwood Springs. A 2 to 3 hour instruction led by Steve Glass of the Open Space Alliance. This all-ages Geocaching 101 workshop is part of a year-long program coordinated by the Open Space Alliance in celebration of the 2014 declaration of Albuquerque as an Urban Conservation Treaty for Migratory Birds city. If you own a GPS receiver, or if you have a GPS or geocaching app on your smart phone, please bring it along! Pre-registration Required
- **August 2nd: Mushroom Hike** - Meet at 8:30 am. Milne Open Space and Sandia Peak. A 3 to 4 hour strenuous hike and instruction by David Wallis, President, New Mexico Mycological Society Regional Trustee, North American Mycological Association. Pre-registration Required
- **August 9th: SNAP: A Nature and Photo Hike** – Meet at 8:30 am. The Tingley Bosque Ponds. A 2 to 3 hour hike led by City of Albuquerque Parks and Recreation Department. Bring your camera. Pre-registration Required
- **August 16th: Wilderness First Aid: An Overview** –The Open Space Visitor Center. A 2 hour session led by Dara Johnson, Wilderness Medical Institute of NOLS instructor. Pre-registration Required
- **August 23rd: Composting Workshop** –The Open Space Visitor Center. A 1.5 hour instruction led by Jim Brooks of Soilutions. Pre-registration Required
- **August 30th 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.

The Open Space Visitor Center Presents: Bosque, An Art Exhibit

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

WHEN: July 5 – September 27;
Tuesday – Sunday, 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM

For at least one million years, the bosque has been a companion of the Rio Grande, expanding or shrinking depending on the whims of the water flow, offering sanctuary to wildlife and more recently, people. The bosque offers people something special, but how "special" is defined is unique to each person that experiences it.



The Bosque Exhibit is a group show of accomplished local artists that express their relationship with the riverside forest through their unique artistic expression. Artists selected to participate in this show are:

- Candace Cates-Cavellier
- Emma Lee Clarke
- Dan Godfrey
- Juan Morales
- Margy O'Brien
- Carol Ordogne
- Ray Petersen
- Karen Servatt
- Janet Yagoda Shagam
- Kent Swanson
- Harriette Tsoie
- L Wren Walraven

The mission of the Open Space Gallery is to inspire an exchange of ideas, solutions and interpretations as they relate to Open Space lands so as to deepen and enhance visitor understanding, appreciation and stewardship for Albuquerque's unique natural and human community.

See www.cabq.gov/openspace for upcoming public programming related to this show.

Spring and Summer Volunteer Event Summary



This year, our spring and summer volunteer events were a huge success! 242 volunteers participated in the Spring Cleanups in the Sandia Foothills. Volunteers helped plant hundreds of cactus cuttings to help close off shortcuts and stabilize areas of erosion. Over 20 bags of trash were removed and 15 bags of recycling, in addition to nine buckets of broken glass. Interesting trash included part of a 1950's swamp cooler, part of a bowling ball, and an ash tray from Caesar's Place Las Vegas. If you are the owner of any of these items, please contact the Open Space Division at 452-5200.

Volunteers also removed over 200 pounds of dog poop from the Sandia Foothills this year. If you needed any more proof that dog poop is a problem on our trails, then there it is! Cleaning up after your dog and keeping them on a leash is the absolute best way to help be a solution to this serious issue on our public lands and trails.

During National River Cleanup, 82 volunteers braved the wind, rain, cold, and hail to help clean areas of the bosque on both sides of the Central Bridge, at I-40, and on both sides of the Paseo del Norte Bridge. We nearly filled the Division's compactor with trash, several tires, and miscellaneous debris, and delivered a truck load of recycling to the local recycling center.



Interesting trash found during the event included a cat mask, an alien figurine, a Bocce Ball, a football, a cheap ring perhaps with magical powers, and several books representing the diversity of religions in the Albuquerque area. The books were *The Easy Tarot Handbook*, *The Lost Art of Encohian Magic* ("Angels, invocations and the secrets revealed"), *The Black Arts* (A concise history of witchcraft, demonology, astrology, alchemy and other mystical practices throughout the ages"), *Opening The Energy Gates of Your Body* ("Qigong for lifelong health"), two copies of the Bible, and one copy of the Book of Mormon.

National Trails Day saw over 120 volunteers coming out to improve trails and celebrate outdoor recreation, completing work on over 12 different trail and conservation projects in the Sandia Foothills Open Space. We thank our partners the Friends of the Sandia Mountains and REI, for making the event such a success. See page 7 for a full list of sponsors!

We hope to see you next year!

Open Space Alliance Awarded \$10,000 Grant from REI for Petroglyph Monument Improvements



This summer, the Open Space Alliance (OSA) was awarded a \$10,000 grant from Recreational Equipment Incorporated (REI). The OSA and the Open Space Division will use the REI grant funding for parking lot and trailhead improvements in the Boca Negra Canyon area of the Petroglyph National Monument.

As part of multi-year infrastructure improvements, the project will include new signage, fence construction, and re-vegetation.

These proposed improvements will add additional parking spaces for cars and for buses and/or recreational vehicles, and will increase access for mobility-limited visitors (e.g. trails and larger parking spots for wheelchair-bound individuals).

The Open Space Alliance and Open Space Division would also like to thank REI for funding \$10,000 in new tool purchases for trail work and restoration projects during the 2014-2015 volunteer event season. Staff and volunteers were able to make use of these new tools during events such as National Trails Day.


Open Space Visitor Center Participates in Mayor Berry's "Launch to Learn" Initiative

Through a public/private/philanthropic partnership led by Mayor Richard J. Berry, Albuquerque children can have summer learning adventures designed to help curb summer learning loss through the "Launch to Learn: Summer Learning Initiative."


Launch to Learn is a collaboration of community partners including the City of Albuquerque, Mission: Graduate, the Early Childhood Accountability Partnership, Albuquerque Public Schools, New Mexico PBS, Bernalillo County, Explora, The New Mexico Office of School and Adolescent Health, and dozens of youth-serving organizations that engage young people in the summer months.

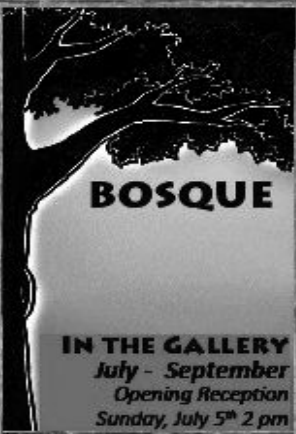
Using a "passport" system, Launch to Learn will create pathways to fun, engaging learning opportunities for students and their families.

Children are encouraged to visit participating partner sites to get their passports stamped; students can also complete activities of their own, such as retelling a story, creating art or getting exercise. Students will exchange their passports for prizes at the end of the summer. The **Open Space Visitor Center** is proud to be one of those sites where you can get your passport stamped! See www.cabq.gov for more information, or call 897-8831.



Parks and Recreation Department
OPEN SPACE VISITOR CENTER
Connecting People to Place


 Mayor Richard J. Berry




BOSQUE

IN THE GALLERY
 July - September
 Opening Reception
 Sunday, July 5th 2 pm

For over one million years, the bosque has been a companion of the Rio Grande, expanding or shrinking depending on the whims of the water flow, offering sanctuary to wildlife and, more recently, people.






BOSQUE is a group exhibition focused on artists' expression of their relationship with the city's riverside forest. The show is a complex visual array, as complex and inspiring as the environment inspiring it.

Birding Hot Spots of Santa Fe, Taos and Northern New Mexico



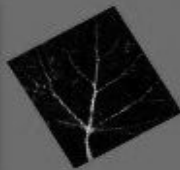
*Booksigning with authors
 Judy Liddell &
 Barbara Hussey
 Sunday, July 26th
 1:00 - 2:30 pm*


The Story Hour Series
Thursdays: July 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th
10 - 11 am. Ages from 3 to 12. No registration required.
 Local Children's Book Authors and Illustrators will stun you with their stories, field your keen questions and curiosities, and sign their beautiful books if you decide to purchase one. See the schedule@ www.cabq.gov/openspace

The mission of the Open Space Gallery is to inspire an exchange of ideas, solutions and interpretations as they relate to Open Space lands so as to deepen and enhance visitor understanding, appreciation and stewardship for Albuquerque's unique natural and human community.

Bonsai Demonstration and Talk
a part of the Open Space Summer Series
Sunday, July 12th | 9:00 am
 Bonsai Demonstration and Talk – Open Space Visitor Center. The basics of creating and maintaining Bonsai by members of the Albuquerque Bonsai Club. Find out more about them at www.abqbonsaclub.com





OPENSOURCE GIFT SHOP
 Saturdays & Sundays
 10 - 4
 The Open Space Visitor Center and the Gift Shop are
CLOSED
 Saturday, July 4th
 Independence Day

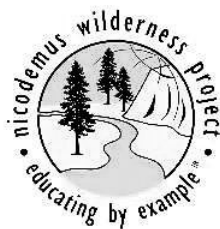
Grateful Life Yoga Begin Sundays with an outdoor meditation at 8:30 followed by YOGA. Every Sunday, 9 am \$15. First class is \$5 and punch cards offer a discount. Class fees include a donation to the Open Space Alliance.

Coming Soon to the Open Space Visitor Center (OSVC)

- **August 29th:** Apiary Tour and Honey Tasting
- **September 5th:** Alameda Talk by Enrique Lamadrid
- **September 12th:** Training for new Open Space Visitor Center Volunteers
- **September 12th:** Book signing with the author of Apricots and Tortillas
- **October 3rd:** PARCH exhibit opens in the Open Space Visitor Center Gallery

See www.cabq.gov/openspace or call 897-8831 for more information.

Thank You! To our sponsors and partners!



La Cebolla del Duende (The Onion of the Duende)



Mime Praised for Thinking Outside of the Box

Park visitor Waldo Roquefort was practicing his mime techniques at the Rio del Norte picnic area when he witnessed another park visitor throw a smoking cigarette butt into some dry brush. Mr. Roquefort is credited with putting out the resulting fire by stomping on it. "We have to commend Mr. Roquefort for his action, however he may be able to put the fire out sooner if he didn't have to fight against an imaginary wind in order to get to it", said Albuquerque Fire Department spokesperson Amanda Scoville.

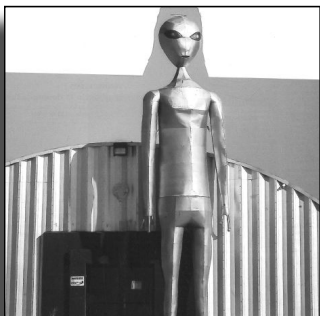
Open Space Volunteers Assist Lost Pirate

Open Space volunteers encountered a man dressed as a pirate during the Division's annual River Cleanup. They escorted the man away from the Rio del Norte Picnic Area where he was swigging rum, holding a treasure map and singing sea shanties while dancing on a picnic table. This was the second time the man has disturbed a River Cleanup event. The Crisis Outreach And Assistance Team (COAST) took over from there. The man identified as Capitan Morgan was quoted as saying, "Tis true, I confess I did bad, but I beg your forgiveness. To err is human, but to arrrrr is pirate. Arrrrrr!"

Bare Fair

Fifty nudists flocked to the Elena Gallegos for what was advertised as a "Bare Fair". The advertisement should have read "Bear Fair" and was set up to disseminate information about bears in the Sandias. "Sometime I get nervous speaking in front of large groups so I picture them in their underwear, and that usually helps, but not this time", said Robert Brewer, Bear Specialist with New Mexico Game and Fish.

KRONOS is Coming!



Conspiracy theorist Nancy Nuttel claims that Open Space is involved in a cover up involving a time traveling alien known as Kronos. "I hear Open Space staff talking among themselves about this Kronos and how he's forcing them to do things they don't like", said Nuttel "for some reason he has this power over them. I think it has something to do with the alien I saw at the Golden Open Space". Andy Trigenta, the Assistant to the Assistant Superintendent, said he has assured Ms. Nuttel that the "alien" at Golden was really Open Space employee Erik Zsemlye who was mapping the Golden trails using Google Trekker equipment, which was a special back pack mounted camera that took panoramic images of the Golden area. Mr. Trigenta also notified Ms. Nuttel that "Kronos" is the new time keeping system that the City has switched to. Ms. Nuttel has threatened to take her evidence to overzealous investigative reported Harry Woofier.

Summer Youth Crews in Open Space



Local youth have been working hard this summer to support the Open Space Division on a variety projects throughout Open Space. Mayor Richard Berry was pleased to announce the Bosque Summer Youth Program which involves 18 youths and 2 supervisors who will be concentrating their work in the Bosque on the east side of the river, between Central Avenue and I-40.

To date the youth crew has removed 12 tons of concrete and 30 tires and they have planted 40 native shrubs. They have also been busy removing noxious weeds such as tumble weeds and goat heads and invasive species including Siberian elms, salt cedar and tree of heaven from the edges of the Rio del Norte Path.

In addition to the Bosque Youth Program there are two Rocky Mountain Youth Corps crews working for the Open Space Division. These crews are funded by a Youth Conservation Corps grant. Several of their projects include new trail construction at the John A. Milne – Gutierrez Canyon Open Space, trail improvements at Piedra Lisa Canyon, trail improvements in the Upper Canyon of Boca Negra and trail maintenance in the Bosque on the west side of the river, south of Paseo del Norte.

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: _____

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 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 Taylor*
Superintendent
Matthew Schmader, Ph.D.
Assistant Superintendent
Mark Chavez
Assistant Superintendent
James Lewis
Resource Management & Visitor Services Program Manager
Jim F. Sattler
Operations & Maintenance Manager
Richard Rodriguez
Open Space Forester
Matthew Peterson
Associate Planner
Sarah Browne
Associate Planner
Kent Swanson (Editor and Layout)
Park Specialist
James Marmon
Environmental Education Coordinator
Bill Pentler
Manager, OSVC
Jodi Hederig
OSVC Coordinator
Noel Chilton

President
Open Space Alliance
Steve Glass

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

OR CURRENT RESIDENT



Open Space Alliance
 P.O. Box 91265
 Albuquerque, NM 87199