

OPEN SPACE

newsletter



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

Volume 19, Issue 3, July - September 2018

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Thank You, Volunteers!

Jim Sattler

Once again our busy spring volunteer season was a success! Thanks to all of our hard working volunteers who joined us during our Spring Cleanup projects, National River Cleanup, and National Trails Day. Thanks also to all of our volunteers who are out on the trails all year and helping at the Visitor Center. You guys are the best!

Spring Cleanups were well attended, averaging 50 volunteers for each of our five events. Although extremely dry weather limited some of our trail maintenance projects, we were able to focus on a number of restoration projects to close eroded and unauthorized social trails. We also teamed up with the New Mexico Volunteers for the Outdoors on two occasions to build more sustainable trails in the Indian School-Menaul area.

National River Cleanup Day was also well attended with over 80 volunteers helping to clean up the Rio Grande *bosque*. The extremely dry weather and low run-off made floating rafts and kayaks down the river impractical, but crews were able to spread out to different areas of the *bosque*, including Bridge Boulevard, Central Avenue, the Pat Baca Open Space, I-40, Pueblo Montañño, and the Dagobah area. (The Dagobah area is a unique, swampy area caused by a storm drain outfall that has lots of birds and mosquitos, and resembles Yoda's home planet).



The bosque Dagobah area

Of course El Duende's favorite day was National Trails Day! Over 100 volunteers participated on 13 different projects, including a trail reroute, trail maintenance, erosion control, fence removal along an old boundary, fence construction at the Double Shelter, and lots of cactus planting to close off unofficial trails. Thanks to all of our volunteer crew leaders who led individual projects and thanks to our Trail Watch Volunteers who helped with set up and registration, and served lunch!





Volunteer Projects

Clockwise:

La Cueva ROTC students at Route 66/Tijeras Arroyo

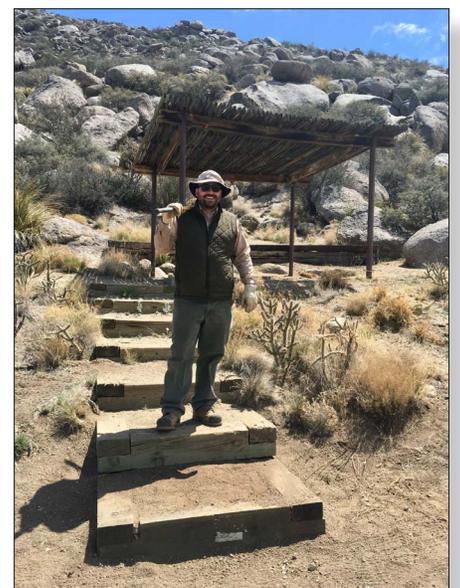
A new trail reroute near the Menaul trailhead

Picnic area improvements the at Menaul trailhead

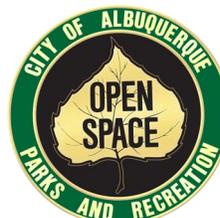
Bosque Brewing Recycling Crew working at Piedra Lisa

Closing trails and taking names

Our youngest volunteer recruits



Thank you to all of the sponsors who help make our volunteer events possible!



Migratory Birds in Open Space

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act celebrates its 100-year anniversary this year. Enacted in 1918, it provides protections to migratory birds, nests, and eggs, and is often credited with helping rejuvenate the Sandhill Crane population. The Rio Grande is an important flyway for these types of birds. Open Space adheres to the federal law that helps protect and provide habitat for migratory birds, including the exclusive use of hand tools by maintenance crews when removing fuel and noxious weeds in the *bosque* during migratory bird season. Open Space also owns several farms that provide acres of wildlife crop for forage throughout Albuquerque.



*Sandhill Cranes at Candelaria Farm
Photo by Bill Pentler*

The Open Space Visitor Center is an ideal location for local birders to catch sight of various native and migratory birds; stop by, peruse our bird guide, and borrow binoculars to investigate the grounds. Geocachers interested in learning more about birding hotspots may find more information at the Burque Birding GeoFlight page on openspacealliance.org. The Open Space Alliance helped to develop this project to celebrate Albuquerque's designation as an International Bird Treaty City in 2014.

Please join the Open Space Division in celebrating and advocating for this important legislation.

Call For Art Proposals

Apply to have your art featured in our gallery!



The Open Space Visitor Center Gallery has announced a call for visual art exhibit proposals for 2019. Exhibits at our gallery embody the missions of the Open Space Division and of the Visitor Center Gallery.

Any proposals must be postmarked or hand-delivered before July 26th, 2018. For more information on submitting an application, please visit our website or contact the Open Space Visitor Center manager, Kent Swanson, at kswanson@cabq.gov or (505)897-8831.

Be sure to visit the gallery at 6500 Coors Boulevard NW on July 7th for the opening reception of the next exhibit! See the opposite page for more details.

Featured Events at the Visitor Center

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

Resonations in Clay - Life in the Bosque: Opening Reception at the Art Gallery

Saturday, July 7th, 2018, 2:00pm-4:00pm

Unique to New Mexico is the riverside *bosque*, Spanish for woodland. *Bosque* ecosystems encompass riparian forests, floodplains, and surrounding rivers. In the United States, this type of ecosystem is found almost exclusively in the arid Southwest, mostly along the Rio Grande - a ribbon of green in the desert landscape. While there are archaeological sites dating back 12,000 years, native Pueblos have continuously lived along the Rio Grande since the 13th century, long before Spanish colonizers introduced communal irrigation systems known as acequias and acequia associations which governed water distribution.

Over the past 50 years, construction of dams and levees has severed the river's natural connection to its floodplain resulting in endangered and invasive species. Jetty jacks and other flood control devices along the Rio Grande are being removed where possible to allow the river to undergo its natural cycle. Since 1996, the Bosque Ecosystem Monitoring Program (BEMP) has worked on habitat restoration and ecological monitoring within the bosque.



The cultural and natural resources of the Rio Grande bosque is the focus of "Resonations in Clay - Life on the Bosque," presented by the New Mexico Potters and Clay Artists. The show runs through September 30th. In selecting the 56 works by New Mexico ceramic artists, Virgil Ortiz of Cochiti Pueblo, Camilla Trujillo of Espanola, and Kim Eichhorst, PhD, of Albuquerque, brought distinct Native Pueblo and Hispanic art and cultural perspectives and bosque ecosystem expertise to the jurying process. The Show Catalog is on view at: <http://celebrationofclay.com/resonations-in-clay/>

Explorer Camp

July 10th-July 26th, 2018, Tuesdays-Thursdays, 9:00am-12:30pm

Kiddos ages 5 to 11 will have an opportunity to learn and grow through our summer Explorer Camp! Themes for activities and fun include: Super Heroes of Nature and the Environment, Big Ideas, Wild lives of Wildlife. Cost is \$12.50 per participant per week. Registration is required. Call Reid Schmidtbauer at 897-8859 or email rschmidtbauer@cabq.gov for registration and more information.



Full Moon Concert with Le Chat Lunatique!

Saturday, July 28th, 2018, 6:00pm-8:00pm

Le Chat Lunatique kicks off a dynamic series of full moon concerts at the Visitor Center. Bring your own lawn chair, picnic blanket, and feast, or grab a bite from a fabulous local food truck. There's fun for the whole family.



See www.cabq.gov/openspace for a full list of activities and other opportunities to enjoy your Open Space!

Fire Preparedness in Open Space



Smokey Bear joins local and state authorities at the beginning of this year's fire season at the Open Space Visitor Center.

It's that time of year again: the heat of the summer before monsoon season, with high winds and dry vegetation. We have to be proactive to prevent wildfires, both for our safety and for the health of the fragile desert ecosystem, even moreso during drought. The Open Space Division works in conjunction with Cibola National Forest and Albuquerque Fire Rescue to determine which properties should be closed for this purpose. Visit our website at cabq.gov/openspace for current Open Space closures, as well as other information on fire restrictions.

Trail Watch Volunteers with Fire Watch Training also play an important role in preventing fires, keeping watch during their regular patrols of Open Space. Albuquerque's KOB recently featured several volunteers discussing this role; video and the article can be found on www.kob.com.

To report a fire or smoke, call 911; for nonemergencies, dial 242-COPS.

Contact Dionne Epps at depps@cabq.gov to learn more about becoming a Trail Watch Volunteer.

Hay Baler Donation

Jim Sattler

The Open Space Division would like to thank Bernie Sanchez and the Sanchez family for their gracious donation of a horse powered hay baler. The hay baler was manufactured by the International Harvester Company in the early 1900's and was bought by the Sanchez family when it was brand new. The Sanchez family has a long connection to the agricultural history of the Albuquerque area and have lived and farmed in the South Valley for over 300 years. According to Bernie, hay baling was a community event and neighboring farmers would bring their hay in wagons over to the Sanchez farm to use their baler.



The hay baler in its new home

How it worked:

The wheels would be taken off so the equipment sat on the ground. One or two horses were hitched to a boom that the horses pulled in a circle. The hay was loaded into a hopper and as the boom spun, it turned gears which powered machinery that compressed the hay into bales. Wires were inserted through a chute

where the bales came out and tightened by hand to keep the bale together. Look online for videos of similar horse-powered hay balers in action.

Thanks to the Sanchez family this piece of agricultural history is now on display at the Open Space Visitor Center for all to enjoy.

A View With Room

Open Space:

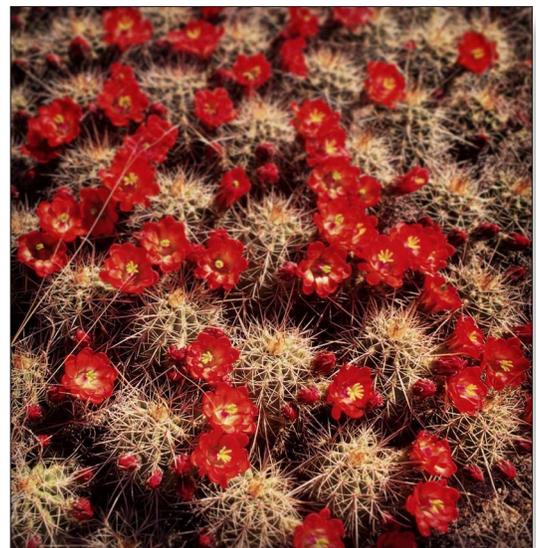


*Left and above: A special thanks to members of the **New Mexico Mountain Club's** Technical Climbing Section for scrubbing off some difficult to reach graffiti at the Rt. 66 Open Space!*



Bottom left: Full moon over JA Volcano at Petroglyph National Monument.

Bottom right: Springtime in the Foothills



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

Dave Mora Set To Retire

Matthew Peterson

Heavy Equipment Operator David Mora is set to retire at the end of June. During his 18-year tenure with the City of Albuquerque, David has left quite the legacy upon the Open Space Division. David has been involved extensively with planting trees in the *bosque*, constructing habitat restoration sites, operating heavy equipment, and lugging a chainsaw around Open Space properties.

David is most known for his artistic talents, his witty sense of humor, and the newfound nickname "The Wood Wizard." One of his most notable accomplishments during his career is the Division's memorial bench program, in which salvaged trees from the *bosque* are milled into lumber and used to build a variety of benches placed on Open Space properties to memorialize loved ones.

Upon retirement, David looks forward to having more time to work on his own art projects, spending time with family, and sleeping in. The Open Space Division would like to thank Mr. David Mora for his commitment to loyal service and friendship.



*Dave in the woodshop
Photo courtesy Ellen Babcock*

Happy Trails, Jim Graham

Jim Sattler



The Open Space Division is sad to report the passing of Jim Graham, one of our original Trail Watch Volunteers. Jim passed away on February 10, 2018, in Georgetown, Texas. Jim and his wife Lisa were members of the first Trail Watch Volunteer class of 1994 and they were both active Open Space volunteers for over 12 years until they moved away from Albuquerque. Jim loved hiking and would often be found exploring the trails in the Sandia Mountains. Jim could always be counted on to greet a person with a big smile and a hearty handshake. In addition to Jim's volunteer work with the Open Space Division he also volunteered for the Forest Service with the Sandia Ranger District and with the Albuquerque Police Department. Jim also served in the United States Army from 1946 to 1968 and was stationed in Europe, Korea and Vietnam.

Welcome Reid Schmidtbauer!



The Division would like to welcome our new Open Space Coordinator (formerly Noel Chilton's position), Reid Schmidtbauer, who started in mid-April. Reid previously worked as a Lead Inclusion Facilitator with the Eden Prairie, Minnesota, Parks and Recreation Department; at the same time he worked toward a Bachelor's degree in Recreation, Parks, and Leisure Services, with an emphasis in Therapeutic Recreation, from Minnesota State University, Mankato. Following that, he interned with Imagine! Foundation in Colorado, where he supervised therapeutic recreation programs for adults and youth with developmental disabilities.

Based out of the Open Space Visitor Center, Reid will create educational programs and materials with a focus on environmental themes. The programs are geared toward youth, families, and young adults. One of his first projects is the upcoming Explorer Camp; he is also excited to increase outreach to populations who may not have many opportunities to learn about the environment.

Welcome to Open Space, Reid!

Welcome Aaron Gonzales!

Open Space welcomes our newest Equipment Operator, Aaron Gonzales, who started with the Division in June. Aaron has worked for the City of Albuquerque Animal Welfare Division as an Animal Handler for five years. In his new position, he will assist in fulfilling the Open Space Division's mission to protect and conserve the area's natural resources.

Aaron is an Albuquerque native, having grown up in the South Valley, and is the father of two young children. He is drawn to work for Open Space, as these are the places he goes with his family in their free time.

Please, join the Open Space Division in welcoming Aaron Gonzales.



The Duende Onion

New Mascot Unveiled

The Open Space Division introduced their new mascot at this year's Spring Cleanup events in the Foothills. Mr. Mutt Mitt delighted crowds of children with his zany antics as he taught children how fun it is to pick up after their dogs, although special guest Miss Green New Mexico was caught a little off guard when Mr. Mutt Mitt snuck a kiss during a photo shoot. "He couldn't have done that before picking up poop?" a startled Miss Green New Mexico asked.



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

Lunch Surprise for Hungry Volunteers

After a long morning of trail building at the Las Cebollas Canyon Open Space, hungry volunteers were looking forward to donated party subs for a hardy lunch, but instead they were in for a big surprise. Open Space Intern, Bob Goosemeyer, unwittingly grabbed the wrong items from the refrigerator at Montessa Park and didn't notice until it was time to unwrap them at lunch time. Instead of two party subs the packages actually contained a pelt from a long-tailed weasel, and an entire Abert's squirrel.

The pelt and squirrel were being kept in the refrigerator by Open Space Education Coordinator Rocky Hill until he could get them to a taxidermist. "I was in a hurry to get to the project site and just grabbed the first thing I saw," said an embarrassed Bob Goosemeyer.

The Property of Dr. Morose

The Duke City Film Office announced a new horror film will be shot in Open Space. The film is entitled, *The Property of Dr. Morose*. The plot centers on two Open Space planners who are sent to meet the mysterious Dr. Morose to see if his remote East Mountain property is worthy of being nominated as Open Space. A heavy rain storm washes out the old wagon road and the planners are forced to stay the night as the Doctor's "guests." During the night they encounter the Doctor's strange servants who appear to be half human – half animal, and bear striking resemblances to former Open Space temporary employees who have mysteriously vanished. Will they be able to plan their way out of the Doctor's clutches?

Mark Your Calendar! Fall Volunteer Events

Looking forward to the next opportunity to wield a McLeod, plant a cactus, build a rock bridge, or discover the weirdest piece of trash in Open Space? Mark your calendars with this fall's annual volunteer events!



Dia del Rio:
Saturday, October 20th, 2018
Bosque location to be determined

Make A Difference Day:
Saturday, October 27th, 2018
Piedra Lisa Open Space

MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY



Want to go paperless and full color?
E-mail Tricia at
tkeffer@cabq.gov.

www.cabq.gov/openspace

Follow the Open Space Visitor Center on social media!



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, visit openspacealliance.org, or fill out the information and return the form with your check or money order.

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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

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Monday through Friday
(505) 452-5200

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Winter: 7:00 am to 7:00 pm
Summer: 7:00 am to 9:00 pm
all week
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per car*

BOCA NEGRA CANYON

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OPEN SPACE VISITOR CENTER

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(505) 897-8831
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Tuesday - Sunday

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