



OPEN SPACE

newsletter



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

Volume 20, Issue 3, July - September 2019

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www.cabq.gov/openspace

Follow the Open Space Visitor Center online!



Newsletter funded in part by:



Mayor Keller Announces New Tijeras Arroyo Open Space!

Mayor Keller along with U.S. Representative Deb Haaland, City Councilor Don Harris, and Parks and Recreation Director David Simon announced the acquisition of two parcels for Open Space in the Tijeras Arroyo at this year's Route 66 Spring Clean-up.

These parcels are designated in the Tijeras Arroyo Biological Zone Resource Management Plan (RMP) as environmentally and culturally significant. This RMP was developed to protect natural and cultural resources and wildlife habitat in the Tijeras Arroyo. The plan considered the amount and type of vegetation, water availability, and multiple other factors studied in resource surveys, to identify priority parcels for purchase or to encourage owners to practice ecologically-focused land management.

These two acquisitions increased the amount of City-protected lands within and around the Tijeras Arroyo by approximately 40 acres. In addition to their designations as priority parcels in the Bio-Zone plan, Logan Ranch Open Space (named for its historical role as part of Logan Ranch) and the Route 66 extension are also important acquisitions because of their connections to existing Open Space property within the arroyo.



Mayor Keller cuts the ribbon to celebrate new Open Space acquisitions in the Tijeras Arroyo.

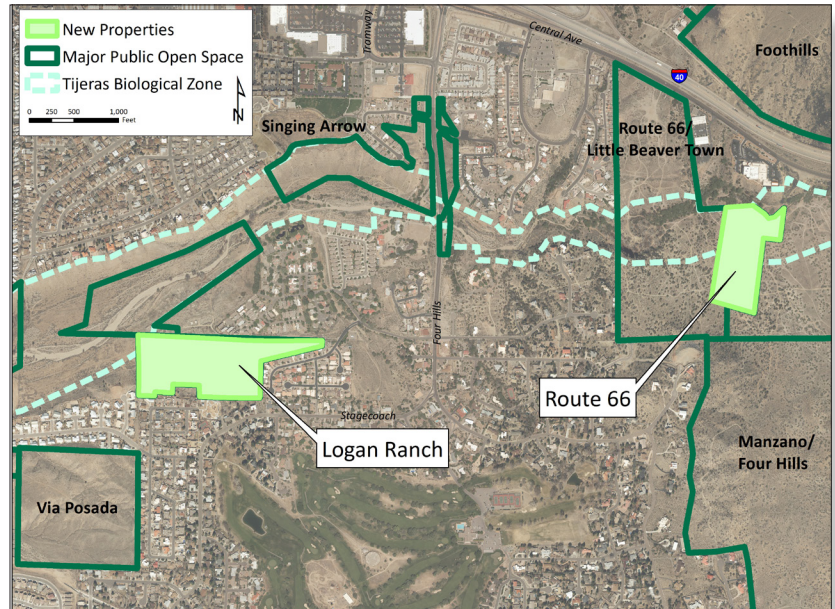
From left: Parks & Recreation Director David Simon; City Councilman Don Harris; Mayor Tim Keller; U.S. Representative Deb Haaland; Parks & Recreation Associate Director Brandon Gibson. (Readers may also recognize the Mayor's podium built by Open Space's Artimus and Enrique!)

Photo by Bill Pentler

Continued on next page

The map to the right depicts the Tijeras Arroyo Biological Zone, the newly-acquired Logan Ranch MPOS and Route 66 extension, and other Major Public Open Space properties in the area including Route 66/Little Beaver Town, Manzano/Four Hills, and the Sandia Foothills.

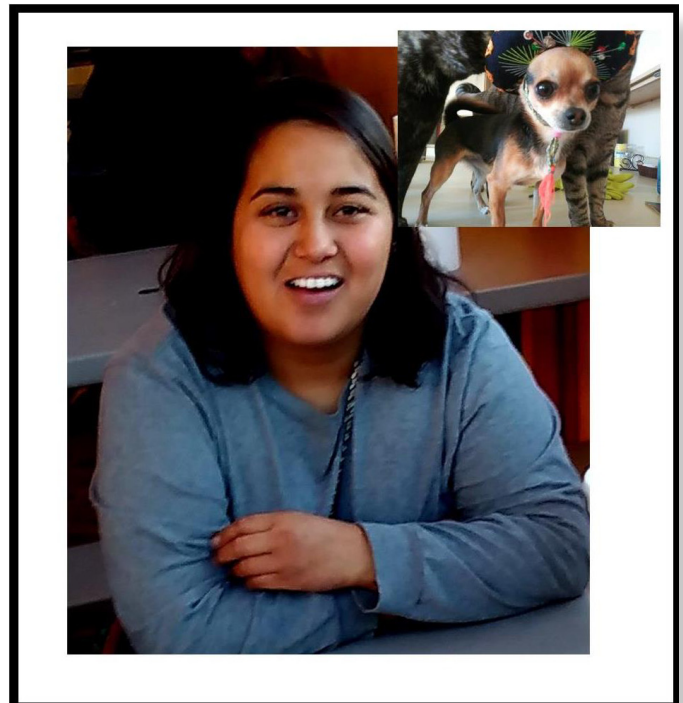
To learn more about the Tijeras Arroyo Biological Zone and why it's important, look for the updated 2014 plan on our website at cabq.gov/openspace.



Congratulations and Welcome, Brianda!

We're excited to announce Brianda Reza as the newest member of the Open Space team! Brianda was hired this spring as the Senior Office Assistant at the Open Space Visitor Center. Brianda has been working at the Visitor Center for nearly three years as a temporary employee prior to coming on board as permanent staff, helping with a variety of projects including supporting environmental education programming, working with the Visitor Center and Trail Watch volunteers, the art gallery, and garden programs. An animal lover, Brianda has a fondness for Chihuahuas and cats. She is pictured here with Elvie. Elvie enjoys salsa dancing and wearing mariachi hats.

Before coming on board at the Visitor Center, Brianda worked as a Women's First Counselor for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. She taught and gave counsel to young women and performed service projects such as sorting and distributing at food banks, cleaning up natural disaster areas, and clearing horse trails in Jemez Valley affected by fires. Brianda is fully bilingual and looks forward to supporting the Visitor Center's programs and operations, including the Explorer Camp, volunteer programs, and making it a welcoming place for people of all ages, cultures, and backgrounds.



Brianda & Elvie

Featured Events at the Visitor Center

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

About the Open Space Visitor Center: *The Open Space Visitor Center is an interpretive hub for the Open Space program, lands, and resources. Visitors enjoy educational exhibits, art displays, wildlife fields, a Traditions garden, Bosque trails, and a variety of talks, workshops, demonstrations and entertainment.*

The Open Space Visitor Center is located at 6500 Coors Blvd. NW between Montañño Road and Paseo del Norte at the end of Bosque Meadows Road. Call 897-8831 for more information.

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

Join us for our popular Moonrise Concert Series!



A family-friendly series of FREE concerts at the City of Albuquerque Open Space Visitor Center (OSVC) featuring amazing local talent and diverse musical genres.

July 13: Dust City Opera

Indie Folk-Rock

August 10: CW Ayon

Mississippi Blues

September 14: Stray Dawgs

Dusty Desert Bluegrass



Doors open at 5pm. Concerts end promptly at 9pm.
Bring a picnic or enjoy food from a tasty local food truck!

6500 Coors Blvd. NW, Albuquerque, NM 87120

The Moonrise Concerts are Alcohol-Free Events

At the Gallery: River, Ocean, Sea

August 3 - September 29

Visit the gallery to experience an international photographic exploration of the presence and impacts that specific water sources have on the environments of each photographer, as well as what kind of inspiration each water source serves for each artist.



Nick Tauro, Jr., of Albuquerque



Fabio Miguel Roque of Sintra, Portugal



Hean Kuan Ong of Penang, Malaysia

Thank You, Volunteers!

Thank you for making our spring 2019 project season a success! What an awesome spring! We had moisture, cool weather, and wildflowers, along with fun and dedicated volunteers. Thank you to everyone who participated in our spring projects and for those who helped at all of our Visitor Center events.

Once again, spring clean-ups were well attended, averaging 50 volunteers for each of the five events. We were honored to have Mayor Keller kick off our clean-ups at the Route 66 Open Space by announcing the addition of two new parcels of Open Space in the Tijeras Arroyo area (more on page 1), as well as kicking off our 35th anniversary celebration.

National River Clean-up was held May 18th, and although our attendance was a bit lower this year our trash haul was much larger than normal. Winter and spring storms had the Rio Grande overflowing its banks and in some places running from levee to levee, which made the Bosque look like a bayou. Special thanks to our friends at Kirtland Air Force Outdoor Recreation for bringing out rafts and floating volunteers from Montañño Bridge to Central Avenue Bridge. Thanks also to local dueling banjo duo, the Giggling Bullfrogs, for serenading the rafters as they made their way along the river.

National Trails Day rounded out the spring events on June 1st. National Trails Day is organized by the American Hiking Association and is celebrated around the country with special events recognizing the importance of our country's trails. Nation-wide, 41,424 people participated, thousands of miles of trails were cleaned up, and more than 869 miles of trail were built or maintained! The Open Space Division hosted the event at the Elena Gallegos Picnic Area with 116 volunteers participating on 14 different projects. Special thanks to our adoption groups FBOMB, Charlie's Crew, and The Shackley Family Trail Doctors, who led projects on their adopted trails. Thanks also to volunteer crew leaders Jim Gore, John Bronisz, Scott McLeod, Charlie Wood, Daniel Ryerson, Joshua Willis, Richard Shackley, Steven Shackley, Colleen Hartwell, Kathy Butler, Jodi Hedderig, and Mike Dias.

Thanks again to everyone who participated and thanks also to all of our sponsors on the opposite page!



Weirdest trash winner of National River Clean-up, a creepy doll head found at Pat Baca Open Space

Want to be a Trail Watch Volunteer?

Join us for our next training at the Open Space Visitor Center on Saturday, August 24th, at 9:00 am.

Call (505) 897-8831 to register.



Volunteer Appreciation Banquet Announced!

All 2019 Open Space Volunteers are invited to attend our Volunteer Appreciation Banquet on Saturday, September 28th, at 5:30 pm.

RSVP at (505) 897-8831.

Thank you to our 2019 Spring Volunteer Event Sponsors!



Buzzing Beasts

By Richard Shackley & Steve Shackley
Volunteer contributors

If you have spent time patrolling the Foothills trails, exploring the Petroglyphs, gazing upon the expanse of the Volcanoes, wandering among the tall trees of the East Mountains or under the shade of the Cottonwoods in the Bosque, or just working in your garden, you have probably heard a buzzing sound in the leaf litter, under a Juniper tree, or in an outcrop of rocks. The sound could have been the rustling of leaves in the wind, or the singing of the cricket-like Cicada. But more likely the buzzing sound was from the ultra-fast shaking tail of a Rattler, or Rattlesnake.



Prairie/Western Rattlesnake



Western Diamondback, Elena Gallegos Trail 342, September 2015

Snakes have been slithering through forests, deserts, grasslands, jungles, and swamps for over 160 million years, but the Rattlesnake is a more recent critter to emerge on the snake family tree, having first rattled its tail some four million years ago. There are about 36 known species of rattlesnakes with between 65 and 70 subspecies, and they are found only in the Americas. From the southern tip of Argentina to southern Canada, and from the Eastern Seaboard to the California Channel Islands, you can hear the familiar rattle in a variety of ecosystems, but the rattlesnake is most common in the Southwestern United States and Northern Mexico.

There are seven to nine species of rattlesnakes in New Mexico, but only four are found in Bernalillo County and Albuquerque: the Western Diamondback Rattlesnake (*Crotalus atrox*) can be found throughout the greater Albuquerque area (and throughout most of New Mexico); the Prairie or Western Rattlesnake (*Crotalus viridis viridis*) is mostly on the West Mesa (but widespread throughout the Midwest); the Northern Black-Tailed Rattlesnake (*Crotalus molossus*) prefers higher elevations in and around coniferous forests; and the less common Desert Massasagua (*Sistrurus catanatus edwardsii*), is rare today due to habitat loss in grasslands and wetter environments.

Rattlesnakes are peculiar not only for their rattle (made of keratin, like your fingernails) and for giving live birth unlike most other reptiles, but also for their combination of hunting skills and physical attributes. Rattlesnakes are ambush predators, and like all pit vipers have two organs that can sense infrared radiation, as well as a set of heat-sensing pits below their eyes that help them locate prey and move toward it based on the prey's heat signature.

Continued on next page

Their tongues collect scent molecules, helping to guide the snake's blindingly fast strike. But don't fret, they aren't people hunters! People do get bitten by rattlesnakes but fatalities are rare, and with proper and immediate medical attention full recovery can be expected.

If you come across a rattlesnake, don't be too alarmed. They won't chase you, they won't hypnotize you, and they usually won't bite you unless you are careless enough to stick your hands or feet in places which you can't see, or are foolish enough to try and catch them. Just be careful when scrambling through the outback and if you come across a Buzzing Beast, give it a wide berth, watch your step, and respect the awesome critter you have encountered.

Further reading

Bartlett, R.D., and Patricia P. Bartlett, 2013, *New Mexico's Reptiles and Amphibians: A Field Guide*. University of New Mexico Press, Albuquerque.

Degenhardt, W.G., C.W. Painter, and A.H. Price, 1996, *Amphibians and Reptiles of New Mexico*. University of New Mexico Press, Albuquerque.

Rubio, Manny, 2010, *Rattlesnakes of the United States and Canada*. Eco Herpetological Publishing, Rodeo, New Mexico.



Above: *Massasagua Rattlesnake*

Below: *Northern Black-Tailed, Domingo Baca Trail, July 2014*



A few tips compiled by NPR's Patti Neighmond

To Avoid Snake Bites:

1. Stay on the trail (we know you do that anyway)
2. Keep the dog on a leash (that too!)
3. Don't wear flip-flops
4. Do wear long pants
5. Keep an eye on the kids

If You Get Bitten:

1. **Call 911 immediately.** Antivenin drugs are available for both humans and dogs and are highly effective. Get treatment as quickly as possible, which means walking to where an ambulance can reach you if necessary.
2. **Stay calm!** Venom will circulate faster if your heart beats faster; if possible, keep the bite location level with or lower than your heart.

A View With Room

Open Space:



*Above: One of many Swainson's Hawks that can be seen at the Open Space Shooting Range, captured on camera by Rangemaster Willie Keliikuli
Below: Copper Trailhead by Charlie Wood*



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

El Duende Onion

Space Probe Lands in Open Space!

Conspiracy theorist Nancy Nuttel claims to have found an alien space probe that has landed in the Sandia Foothills Open Space. Ms. Nuttel called 311 to report what she called an "Alien Probe Device," otherwise known as an "APD," at the Indian School Trailhead. Upon investigation the alleged space probe proved to be a portable crime-watch camera set up by the Albuquerque Police Department, marked APD, in an effort to protect the Foothills Open Space visitors from auto break-ins.



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

New Life Form Found!

University of New Mexico Biology Professor Liz Arden announced that she believes to have found a new life form in a Mutt Mitt station trash can at an undisclosed site in the Sandia Foothills. The trash can was apparently forgotten about by park workers and had not been emptied for several months. "I believe this life form has evolved over a period of time in the primordial ooze of stagnant rain water and used Mutt Mitts," reported Professor Arden in the prestigious journal *Pseudoscience*. "We're just hoping this life form can evolve enough to the point where it can change its own trash bag," commented Andy Trigenta, the assistant to the Assistant Superintendent.

Altercation at Juan Tomas Open Space

Open Space staff responded to an altercation at the Juan Tomas Open Space between two groups who were gathering piñon nuts. It seems that one group had 987 piñons and the other group had 988 piñons. Acting Resource Specialist Rusty McLeod confirmed that the altercation was caused by a difference of a piñon.



What We've Been Up To

It has been a busy spring for the Open Space Alliance! Our big news is that we've received two grants from REI to support an OSD inventory, evaluation and assessment of Albuquerque's Open Space signage with a goal of replacing old signs and kiosks with new, informative and interpretive signage. It's a large project and these grants will go a long way to developing a plan and design for new signage and kiosks.

In March, we spent a day of outreach at REI greeting and meeting customers. We supported and took part in the Foothill trail clean-ups and hosted a table at Sandia Laboratories Earth Day Celebration in April. May was another busy month as we participated in and provided financial support for the Fiber Arts Crawl and National River Clean-up, and had our Panera fundraising event; a big thank you to Panera and everyone who came out to support us! The beginning of June brought National Trails Day, another event that members helped support with dues and donation dollars. Thank you!

Calling All OSA Members

We are seeking enthusiastic people to help the OSA support Albuquerque's beautiful Open Space and could use your ideas, talent and passion on one of these new committees or positions:
MEMORIAL BENCH REVIEW COMMITTEE: Our Memorial Bench Program helps people honor and remember loved ones with memorial benches on Open Space. It is time to update our program!
OUTREACH COMMITTEE: Help us promote the OSA to our members and the public, recruit and

engage more members to grow and sustain the OSA, and brainstorm funding and resources to further the mission of the OSA. Someone familiar with social media would be helpful.

VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR FOR THE OSA-ADOPTED BOSQUE TRAIL: The OSA has adopted the Bosque Trail associated with the Open Space Visitor Center, and we need a motivated volunteer to arrange two trail clean-up events each year. Help keep our trail in beautiful condition!

CONSIDER BECOMING AN OPEN SPACE ALLIANCE BOARD MEMBER!

Committees will meet as needed at pre-scheduled dates and venues. Email will be another vital route of communication.

Interested? Have questions? Email us at volunteer@openspacealliance.org



**Open Space Alliance
Frequently Asked Questions**

How is the Open Space Alliance (OSA) different from the Open Space Division (OSD)?

The OSA is a private 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. It is a 'friends of the OSD' group that seeks to enhance the experiences of all users of Albuquerque Open Space lands by providing financial support for OSD programs, and the

public with an avenue for stewardship of our Open Space. The OSD is a division within the Albuquerque Parks and Recreation Department that preserves, maintains and manages the City's Open Space for the enjoyment of all. The OSD offers a wide array of outdoor programs including educational and volunteer opportunities.

How long has OSA existed?

The OSD was established in 1984; the OSA received its nonprofit status in 1996. The two organizations signed an agreement in 2002 defining the roles of OSA in support of OSD.

What OSD programs does OSA support?

OSA provides financial and other types of support for a host of OSD programs and activities including volunteer clean-ups and trail maintenance, the annual volunteer banquet, the Return of the Sandhill Crane Celebration, the Moonrise Concert Series, honorariums for Open Space Visitor Center guest talks and workshops, the Fiber Arts Crawl, the Visitor Center gallery, printing and mailing the OSD newsletter, National Trails Day, buses for school service projects, and much more.

When I volunteer for OSD, am I supporting OSA?
Indirectly, absolutely! Because part of its mission is to support the OSD, when you volunteer for the OSD you are indirectly supporting the OSA. When you volunteer directly with the OSA, those hours will also count toward your OSD volunteer hours.

Are my donations to OSA tax-deductible?

Yes! The OSA is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. If you deduct your charitable donations, you can include your membership or donations to the OSA.

More questions?

If you have more questions about the OSA or would like to become more involved, please contact us at info@openspacealliance.org.



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 the experience of all users of Albuquerque Open Space lands by providing financial support for Open Space Division programs, advocating for sustainability and expansion, and encouraging increased public involvement and use.

To become a member, please visit us at the openspacealliance.org or fill out the form below.

NAME _____ DATE _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____

HOME PHONE _____ E-MAIL _____

- | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> NEW MEMBER | <input type="checkbox"/> \$15 STUDENT (18 & UNDER) | <input type="checkbox"/> \$30 FAMILY | <input type="checkbox"/> \$250 SUSTAINING |
| <input type="checkbox"/> RENEWAL | <input type="checkbox"/> \$15 SENIOR | <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 FRIEND OF OSA | <input type="checkbox"/> \$500 BUSINESS |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> \$20 INDIVIDUAL | <input type="checkbox"/> \$150 NEIGHBORHOOD | <input type="checkbox"/> \$1000 LIFE MEMBER |

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Open Space News

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Monday through Friday
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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
per car*

BOCA NEGRA CANYON

PETROGLYPH NATIONAL MONUMENT
8:30 am to 4:30 pm, all week
\$1.00 weekdays / \$2.00 weekends
per car*

OPEN SPACE VISITOR CENTER

6500 Coors Blvd. NW
(505) 897-8831
9:00 am to 5:00 pm
Tuesday - Sunday

TO REPORT VIOLATIONS

242-COPS

* ANNUAL PARKING PASS

Valid for one year from purchase
at Elena Gallegos and Boca Negra
\$30.00