



OPEN SPACE

newsletter



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

Volume 19, Issue 4, October - December 2018

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

www.cabq.gov/openspace

Follow the Open Space Visitor Center online!



Make a Difference This Fall!

Jim Sattler

El Duende recently took a summer vacation trip to visit some friends in California who are wood nymphs in the redwoods. While strolling through Muir Woods El Duende saw a sign with this quote from Theodore Roosevelt:

"We have passed the stage as a nation when we can afford to tolerate the man whose aim it is merely to skin the soil, to take off the timber, to exhaust it, and go on; our aim must be securing the wise use in perpetuity of the forests, to promote the permanent interests of the country. Our aim must be to hand over our county to our children in better shape than we ourselves got it."

These words were spoken in 1903 as President Roosevelt toured the west and sought to protect places like Yellowstone, the Grand Canyon, and Yosemite. El Duende was moved by the last line and was thinking that this is something to always keep in mind when out in nature.

It is especially fitting to remember these words as Make a Difference Day nears. So whether it's redwoods, or cottonwoods, or even cacti, El Duende reminds everyone that we should use our natural resources wisely and do our part to pass Open Space down to the next generation in better shape than we received it. Look for your opportunities to help improve the health of Open Space at

upcoming events such as Dia del Rio (October 20th) and Make a Difference Day (October 27th).

Teddy and El Duende enjoy a chat on the mesa at Golden.

Little known fact: El Duende once told Teddy that he should walk softly and carry a big McLeod. Teddy later changed it to "Walk softly and carry a big stick."



Doña Elena Gallegos and Albuquerque Open Space

Visitors who frequent the Elena Gallegos Open Space may have noticed a new historic marker at the Pino trailhead. This is one of 75 markers installed around the state by the New Mexico Historic Women Marker Initiative in order to recognize women's contributions to New Mexico.

The text on the marker reads:

Doña Elena Gallegos, c. 1680-c. 1731. Doña Elena Gallegos was a daughter of early seventeenth-century Hispanic colonists, Antonio Gallegos and Catalina Baca. They fled New Mexico with their newborn daughter during the 1680 Pueblo Revolt but returned in 1692. Elena wed Santiago Gurulé, a tattooed Frenchman, born Jacques Grolet, a member of the ill-fated La Salle expedition. Everyone with the Hispanized form of his surname, Gurulé, has roots in New Mexico. Approximately two years after her husband's death in 1712, Captain Diego Montoya conveyed to Elena the vast landholding that has since born her name.

Over the following generations, the 35,084 acres comprising the original grant and stretching from the Sandia Crest to the Rio Grande were subdivided and sold. Two hundred and seventy years after the conveyance of the grant, after Albert G. Simms bequeathed a portion of that original acreage to the Albuquerque Academy, much of this then natural

area was being developed. To preserve the Foothills and western side of the Sandia Mountains, the City of Albuquerque purchased 7,600 acres, most of which went to the Forest Service in exchange for other federal trade lands. The remaining 640-acre Elena Gallegos Open Space represents one of the original properties preserved as City of Albuquerque Open Space.

Today, Elena Gallegos Open Space is open for hiking, mountain biking, and horseback riding, and serves as a connection to the Cibola National Forest. The Kiwanis and Double Shelter are available for reservation and also host the Saturday Sunset Series through the summer months (check our website next year for a schedule of events!). Folks who like to help preserve their public lands through volunteerism can also

attend the Christmahannukwazadan of volunteer events, National Trails Day, which takes place at the Elena Gallegos Picnic Area every June.

Whichever you choose, be sure to plan a trip to view the marker, hike through the Foothills, and take some time to contemplate the history and changes the area has seen over the centuries.

For more information on the New Mexico Historic Women Marker Initiative, visit nmhistoricpreservation.org.



The new historic marker, dedicated September of this year.

Calling all kids in Albuquerque! Join us for our brand new Weekend Explorer Hikes!

Beginning Sunday, September 23rd, and continuing through Sunday, November 18th, we'll be exploring Albuquerque's open spaces and trails. Each Sunday, we will visit a different Open Space property to learn about its local wild and plant life.

Hikes are for youth ages 8-14. Cost is \$5.00 per session.

You can register at play.cabq.gov. For more information, contact Reid Schmidtbauer at rschmidtbauer@cabq.gov or (505)897-8859.



MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY



Make A Difference Day
October 27th, 2018

Join the Open Space Division, the Nicodemus Wilderness Project, and United Way for a national day of community service! There will be a variety of projects for all ages, including trail maintenance, trail building, cactus planting, trash clean-up, and graffiti removal. There will be activities appropriate for all ages. Don't forget about the prize drawing at the end of the event!

WHEN: Saturday, October 27th, 8:30 AM - 12:30 PM. Arrive promptly at 8:30am to sign in and enjoy donated morning snacks.

WHERE: Piedra Lisa Open Space. Meet at the parking area east of Tramway on Camino de la Sierra, just south of the east end of Candelaria. Parking is limited so please carpool!

REGISTER: Please register at www.centerforprofitexcellence.org/volunteer-connection/make-difference-day

BRING: Volunteers should dress in layers, wear sun protection and hiking boots, and bring work gloves and plenty of water. Donated morning snacks are provided.

News From the Far Side (of Open Space): Golden Trail System Completed!

Jim Sattler

"The trail is the thing, not the end of the trail. Travel too fast and you miss all you are traveling for."

Louis L'Amour

Ride the Dark Trail



*New trail constructed at Golden Open Space
Photo by Jim Sattler*

The trail system at Golden is now complete! After 12 years of work, volunteers, Duendes, and staff put the finishing touches on the last section of the South Mesa Trail as it drops off the South Mesa and down to the San Pedro Creek. There are now over nine miles of trail on the Golden Open Space. Some portions of the system are out and back sections, so a complete round trip on all the trail segments comes out to just under 15 miles. A round trip from the La Madera Trailhead to the San Pedro Creek is just over nine miles.

Many thanks go out to all the dedicated volunteers who have helped to build this trail system. There

are too many to name, but some who deserve a special thanks are Bob and Betsy Galloway, Mike and Pat Madden, and Mark Spear. Next time you visit the Golden Open Space take a minute to appreciate the numerous rock retaining walls that they helped build. But it may be difficult to focus on the rock work because it is easy to get distracted by the views. The Golden Open Space is a place where visitors can experience wide open vistas in every direction, with sweeping views of five different mountain ranges. It is a place where the term "open space" truly fits.

A Brief History of the Golden Open Space

1961 – City of Albuquerque applies to the Bureau of Land Management for land in the Golden area through the Recreation and Public Purposes Act

1965 – The City obtains 560 acres of what is now the Golden Open Space at a cost of \$2.50/acre

1969 – The City obtains 620 additional acres, also at a cost of \$2.50/acre, for a total of 1,180 acres to complete the Golden Open Space

1971 – The original management plan to develop the Golden land as a Regional Park with picnic areas is created

1984 – The Open Space Division is created

2003 – Work on an updated Resource Management Plan begins

2005 – The updated management plan is completed

2006 – Work begins on the Golden trail system

2008 – Steven Ausherman, author of *60 Hikes in 60 miles of Albuquerque*, attributes trail work at Golden to "Duendes"

2018 – The trail system is completed

Stats about the trail system:

- 12 years in the making
- 9.21 miles of trail built
- 14.79 miles round trip of all trail loops
- 9.28 miles round trip to San Pedro Creek
- 4,461 volunteer hours
- 74 projects



Tres Hermanas Farm and the Rio Grande Community Farm Present the 21st Annual Maize Maze!

Join us for the last two weekends of October at Los Poblanos Fields Open Space!

There will be

- an eight-acre maze
- a scavenger hunt
- educational programming by Explora!, ABQ BioPark, and Bilingual Birdies
- introduction to birding tours by the Audubon Society
- pumpkins and pumpkin painting
- snacks and drinks from PopFizz and My Sweet Basil

This event will benefit two amazing organizations working to support Albuquerque's local food system:

Tres Hermanas Farm works with the refugee population, empowering New Americans by connecting them with space to grow food for themselves, their families, and for markets.

Rio Grande Community Farm supports wildlife habitat and education for the public about sustainable agriculture, and hosts a vibrant community garden which provides space for Tres Hermanas Farm.

Maze Days and Hours:

11:00am - 6:00pm

Saturday, October 20th

Sunday, October 21st

Saturday, October 27th

Sunday, October 28th

Tickets:

Available online or at the event (cash or card accepted)

Kids age 2 & under: Free!

Kids aged 3 - 12 years: \$7

Adults: \$10

FarmStrong Fall Festival:

Saturday, October 27th

Explore the Maize Maze, enjoy live music, a Steel Bender brew in the beer garden, and a 5k/10K/FunRun, and carve pumpkins.

Music by Le Chat Lunatique, Da Terra Meiga, and Flor Del Alma Mariachi troupe

Local food by My Sweet Basil, PopFizz, El Paisa Express, and Supper Truck

Learn more at riograndefarm.org/maize-maze.

Featured Events at the Visitor Center

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

Far Off the Path, Watercolors and Words by Betsy James: Opening Reception at the Art Gallery

Saturday, October 6th, 2018, 2:00pm-4:00pm

Free!

Betsy James is the author-illustrator of 17 books for adults and children. Her latest novel, *Roadsouls*, was a finalist for the 2017 World Fantasy Award. She teaches at UNM Honors College, and lives in the North Valley.

"We live surrounded by worlds we barely know.

This may be especially true in the desert West. The bare, stony, apparently nondescript earth, dry and desperately overgrazed, that we glimpse as we pass on the freeway? It looks like a lot of nothing.

Stop the car. Lace up your boots.

Take a map to tell you which lands are public, where you can legally hike, and walk the mesas and meadows nobody knows about, nobody sees. You'll have to crawl under a fence or two. Take plenty of water, and keep an eye out for snakes. Put a pencil stub and a couple of three-by-five cards in your pocket, because there will be things you'll want to remember—things that will change the way you see.

Look around you.

Go quietly, on foot."

by Betsy James



Visit the gallery to experience *Far Off the Path* through December 30, 2018.



The Return of the Sandhill Cranes Celebration!

Saturday, November 10th, 2018, 9:00am-5:00pm

Free!

Help us welcome the Sandhill Cranes back to their winter habitat along the Middle Rio Grande Valley with this annual family-friendly event. Twenty-one acres of agricultural land are the backdrop of this unique facility that includes an art gallery, interpretive exhibits, and a wildlife preserve. Throughout the day there will be workshops, crafts and activities for kids, presentations on crane ecology, visual and performing arts, viewing scopes for up close views of cranes and other birds, live birds and raptors on display, and information booths with local conservation organizations.

- Scheduled activities include:**
- Tai Chi with the Cranes
 - Workshops on crane ecology
 - Art by LWren Walraven and Betsy James in the Open Space Visitor Center Gallery
 - The Book of Cranes: a collaboration of 12 New Mexico artists and poets
 - A crane dance performance by the Maple Street Dance Space

DÍA del RÍO

October 20th, 2018

The Open Space Division and REI invite you to a day of service to help protect and nurture the *bosque* and river, including trail work, revegetation, and trash clean-up. There will be activities appropriate for all ages. Don't forget about the prize drawing and lunch (sponsored by the Open Space Alliance) at the end of the event!

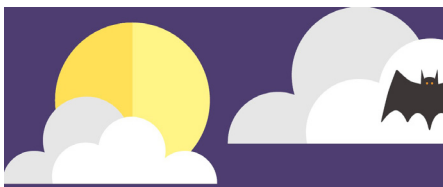
WHEN: Saturday, October 20th, 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM.

Arrive at **8:30am** to sign in and enjoy donated morning snacks.

WHERE: This year's Dia del Rio will take place at the the Open Space Visitor Center located at 6500 Coors Boulevard NW, at the end of Bosque Meadows Road. Parking is limited so please carpool!

REGISTER: REI will provide free t-shirts to the first 80 to register at rei.com! Please register at www.rei.com/event/dia-del-rio-stewardship-project/albuquerque/218436

BRING: Gloves, sun protection, and plenty of water. Donated morning snacks and lunch are provided.



Boosque on the Bosque

Sunday, October 28th,
2018, 1:00pm-4:00pm

Kiddos and their families are invited to come dressed in your Halloween best and learn about the not-so-spooky critters of the Rio Grande's bosque ecosystem. Participants will receive a "passport" to be stamped while exploring the Visitor Center and meeting volunteers dressed as local plants and animals from the *bosque*. The passport can then be turned in for a special prize!

This interactive event is fun for the whole family and includes "Boosque"-themed arts and crafts, snacks, and more!

Río: A Photographic Journey Down the Old Río Grande

Free exhibit runs through October 28th



Join us for this stunning exhibit of photographs from the University of New Mexico/Querencias Series book: *Río: a Photographic Journey Down the Old Río Grande*, winner of the 2017 New Mexico-Arizona Book Award for History Book.

Weaving together landscape and memory, this book presents historical photographs of the Río Grande of the American Southwest. The dynamic Río Grande has run through all the valley's diverse cultures: Puebloan, Spanish, Mexican, and Anglo. Photography arrived in the region at the beginning of the river's great transformation by trade, industry, and cultivation. In *Río*, Savage has collected images that document the sweeping history of that transformation—from those of nineteenth-century expeditionary photographer W. H. Jackson to the work of the great twentieth-century chronicler of the river, Laura Gilpin. The photographs are assembled in thematic bundles—river crossings, cultivation, trade, floods, the Mexican insurrection, the Big Bend region, and the estuary where the river at last meets the Gulf of Mexico.

(Courtesy unmpress.com)

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

City of Albuquerque Parks and Recreation Partners with BEMP After-School Science

Matthew Peterson

Mayor Keller's ABQ Youth initiative is funding a new partnership between the City of Albuquerque Parks and Recreation Department and the Bosque Ecosystem Monitoring Program for K-12 students to participate in Science, Technologies, Engineering, Art, and Math (STEAM) competencies. The Bosque Ecosystem Monitoring Program (BEMP) is a partnership between the University of New Mexico and Bosque School, in which students participate in gathering data throughout the Middle Rio Grande Valley to help better manage the Rio Grande and its *bosque*.

The partnership between BEMP and the City of Albuquerque, known as BEMP After School Science (BASS), will grant opportunities for K-12 students, particularly in identified Title 1 Albuquerque Public Schools, to participate in hands-on citizen science in their *bosque*, school yards and neighborhood parks. At the completion of the program, students will present their findings to community members and City of Albuquerque Open Space Division staff. The students' findings from BASS will directly support the Open Space Division's restoration, monitoring and ecological concerns and management actions.



*BASS students in the field
Photo by Matthew Peterson*



*Jonathan doing rock work at Golden
Photo by Jill Sattler*

Welcome Jonathan Donovan!

The Open Space Division would like to welcome Jonathan Donovan as the newest member of our staff. Jonathan has volunteered for trail and clean-up projects since 2010 and has worked as a temporary employee for the last three years at the Elena Gallegos Park. He has assisted in various trail maintenance and construction projects, as well as herding the occasional rattlesnake. Jonathan has been hired into a permanent Laborer position and looks forward to continuing his work at the Elena Gallegos and with volunteer and educational projects, as well as to whatever future opportunities present themselves.

Jonathan is also an avid nature photographer, practices tracking, and teaches Chinese Martial Arts in his off time. He is happy to be a full time employee with all the benefits, including donated breakfast burritos. He is also grateful to work with such an interesting and dynamic group of co-workers.

A View With Room

Open Space:



A lighting storm in early September at Elena Gallegos

Photos by new Park Attendant Jonathan Donovan



Left: Volunteers at Central Avenue and the bosque in August. This was an Open Space Division effort for the One ABQ Challenge, First Lady Elizabeth Kistin Keller's initiative to connect youth and elders in a day of service. Thanks to the 26 youth and 18 adults who attended!

Photo by Bill Pentler



Views from a game camera on an Open Space Preserve

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

The Duende Onion

Soil Microbes Tired of Being Treated Like Dirt!

Self-described animal whisperer, and now microbe whisperer, Carol Calyx, announced that she has been in communication with soil microbes in the Sandia Foothills and that they are tired of being neglected and trampled on. "Soil microbes need love too, you know," said Ms. Calyx. "Visitors should stay on designated trails in order to protect the microbes. Microbes play an important role in the environment and are important to humans and plants. They are vital to the Earth's carbon and nitrogen cycles and they help recycle waste products such as dead plants and animal remains. They are especially vulnerable here in our arid climate and people have to be more careful of where they are stepping," explained Ms. Calyx. "If we don't start treating them with respect they are threatening to go on strike, and then what would we do?"

Trail Improvements held up by Red Tape

Trail planners encountered an unexpected delay in their planning efforts at the Golden Open Space due to red tape. Apparently the planners ran out of the red flagging tape used to mark trail sections that require rock retaining walls and have not been able to get approval for additional red tape. "You would not believe the red tape we have to go through in order to purchase additional red tape," commented Rusty McLeod, Acting Natural Resource Manager for the Division while he was taking a break from rehearsing his new play, *A Midsummer's Night Duende*.



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

Top 10 Reasons to Live in Albuquerque!

A poll of the top 10 reasons people enjoy living in Albuquerque was conducted by the staff of the Open Space Newsletter showing Open Space as the number 2 reason why people enjoy living in Albuquerque. Here is the entire list:

1. Lots of local beer
2. Open Space adventures
3. Chile on everything
4. The sunshine
5. The art scene
6. The mixing of cultures
7. Nob Hill
8. Downtown
9. The history
10. Breakfast burritos

El Duende hopes everyone has regular number 2's.

Bernalillo County Open Space Program Celebrates 20 Years

The Open Space program run by the Bernalillo County Parks and Recreation Department is celebrating its 20th anniversary this year.

The program began in 1998 when residents voted to fund Open Space land acquisition, beginning with Ojito de San Antonio, Durand, Pajarito, and Sabino Canyon. The County now manages 17 properties including farms in the South Valley and forested areas in the East Mountains, and runs popular programs like Master Naturalist and Grow the Growers.

City and County Open Space are often partners in preservation efforts; one of many examples is the Bachechi/Alameda Open Space in the *bosque* off Alameda.



View from a wildlife blind at Bachechi/Alameda Open Space wetland, owned and managed by both County and City Open Space.

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.

NAME: _____ DATE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP CODE: _____

HOME PHONE: _____ E-MAIL: _____

- () NEW MEMBER () \$15 STUDENT (18 & UNDER) () \$30 FAMILY () \$250 SUSTAINING
- () RENEWAL () \$15 SENIOR () \$50 FRIEND OF OSA () \$500 BUSINESS
- () TRAILS DAY () \$20 INDIVIDUAL () \$150 NEIGHBORHOOD () \$1000 LIFE MEMBER

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Open Space Division

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Albuquerque, NM 87103



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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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OPEN SPACE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES

3615 Los Picaros Rd. SE
8:00 am to 4:30 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
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*

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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
\$26.40