



OPEN SPACE newsletter



Mayor Richard J. Berry

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

Volume 14, Issue 1, January - March 2013

Celebrating the City Open Space Division's Outstanding Volunteers A Message from Mayor Richard J. Berry

Greetings to all and I hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas and New Year. This year Albuquerque's Open Space Division has lots to celebrate. Albuquerque not only has more parkland per capita than any other city in the United States, we also have some of the greatest volunteers dedicated to preserving and protecting it.

Each year, on the first Saturday in June, thousands upon thousands of Americans gather all over the country to celebrate National Trails Day and increase the awareness of the trails in their communities. These celebrations take many forms - organized hikes, photography workshops, children's activities, and so on. Many groups gather volunteers for a day of service as a way to give back to the trails that keep us healthy, provide an escape, and connect our communities.

It is in this area of service that Albuquerque residents really shine. This past year, 157,000 people participated in 2,176 Trails Day activities across the United States, Puerto Rico, and Canada. Of those projects, 414 of them were focused specifically on trail stewardship, including the event organized by the City of Albuquerque's Open Space Division and the US Forest Service. In Albuquerque, nearly 200 volunteers gave up a part of their weekend to work hard maintaining our world-class trails. This impressive turnout was one of the largest anywhere! Consistently, Albuquerque residents volunteer in numbers **over three times the national average** for National Trails Day. In fact, turnout has become so great that the Open Space Division has had to put a cap on the number of attendees for the past few years.



This outpouring of support confirms what we all already know to be true - we love our open spaces, and are willing to pitch in to help them out. The City of Albuquerque fosters stewardship of our land and our city in many ways, and it is satisfying to see the public respond in numbers such as these. Keep up the good work, Albuquerque!

Check the Open Space website, www.cabq.gov/openspace for information about the many ways to volunteer and get involved.

Sources:

<http://persquaremile.com/2011/01/27/parkland-per-person-in-the-united-states>

http://www.americanhiking.org/ntd/info/#Final_Report

<http://www.americanhiking.org/uploadedFiles/FINAL%20NTD%20REPORT%209MB.pdf>

Happy New Year From El Duende

As we enter the new year El Duende hopes you and your family had a very happy holiday season and a joyous Mayan Apocalypse. El Duende loves the holiday season! It's the best time of year to spend with family and friends. El Duende took his family to Old Town on Christmas Eve for a midnight walk through the luminaria lit streets. Afterwards, we all went back to the family cave for posole, tamales and spiced cider. The next day the whole family got up early to share the gift of nature by taking a long hike in the crisp morning air. I invite you and your family to visit Open Space during the new year. It's a great way to get some exercise and walk off all those holiday treats.



After romping around on a good winter hike why not warm up at the Open Space Visitor Center? El Duende finds this year's art show very intriguing, it's Trees, Rocks, and Dirt, by the students of Volcano Vista High School. Besides Wassailing and Pulaski juggling, trees, rocks and dirt are some of El Duende's favorite things. See page 3 for more details!

Please enjoy all that Open Space has to offer this winter and remember to enjoy it responsibly. Always keep your dog on a leash in Open Space areas, and clean up after them. It's the law!

Also, remember the fire danger is still very high. The Albuquerque area is approximately 3.5" below normal precipitation. But El Duende is thinking positive and has his skis all waxed up in anticipation of enough snow for cross country skiing at the Elena Gallegos. So from El Duende's family to yours, have a safe and happy holiday season! And remember (turn on your secret Duende decoder ring now) "Birds often soar quickly upon excitement".

"El D"



Bosque Reforestation Opportunities Available Sign up your School or Organization Today!

It's Pole Planting time again. Pole planting is when we take long straight branches or "poles" from cottonwood and willow trees and "plant" them into the ground. In the midst of a drought, finding an area where we can reach the water table or moist wet soil without having to dig beyond our means is a bit tricky but we have a few areas in mind and things are gearing up to be a fine season. The plantings occur during the winter months (January through March) as the trees are dormant or sleeping. We can harvest and work with them at this time without doing any damage or harm, such as putting the trees into shock. This creates a very short window of opportunity to do this type of project so please don't hesitate to contact Bill Pentler, 452-5222 or wpentler@cabq.gov if you are interested.



These are popular events and dates fill up quickly with only a set number of trees planted per area, so call now. To add to the rush, we have limited funds from an REI grant to provide a single bus for service projects for a class, grade, or school. Please fill out the information at the website listed below for a "Get Into Open Space" scholarship or just contact Bill if you don't need the transportation. You

can also find more details on our website, www.cabq.gov/openspace. Have a great 2013!

The Open Space Visitor Center Presents: Trees, Rocks and Dirt



When: January - February 2013
What: A Variety of Art by Volcano Vista High School Students
Where: The Open Space Visitor Center, 6500 Coors Blvd NW, 87120. 505-897-8831

Free Admission to all Open Space Gallery Exhibits

OPENING RECEPTION: January 12th, 3-5pm

High school art students respond to the value of Open Space within their city. A variety of media and interpretations are expected to express the dialog these students have with Open Space properties such as the Petroglyph Monument, views of the West Mesa , the Bosque and the Foothills.



NOTICE! Illegal dumpers are Being Cited on Open Space Lands

City of Albuquerque Open Space and Petroglyph National Monument Law Enforcement are working together to track down and cite illegal dumpers on City Major Public Open Space lands. Officers have already cited several violators in recent weeks. If you see illegal dumping on any Open Space property, please call Open Space Dispatch immediately at 452-5206 or call 242-COPS. Take note of a license plate number and get a description of the car and the driver, and the time of day of the incident. Also take photographs of the car if you have a camera or cell phone handy. Thank you!

JANUARY 2013

***ONGOING: FIRST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH, 7:30 AM. *Guided Bosque Nature Walk*.** Free. Registration is recommended one month in advance. Join biologist, naturalist and birder Elsa Bumstead for a guided walk into the riverside forest and discover this world away from the city.

Winter Hours (through May): Sundays 9:00am -10:30am, Wednesdays, 9:30 - 11 a.m. *Yoga with a View*. Yoga with instructor Jenny Dominique. \$15.00 donation. A portion of the donation benefits the Open Space Alliance.

January-February 2013. *Trees, Rocks and Dirt, Volcano Vista HS*. High school art students respond to the value of Open Space within their city. See page 3 for details.

January 12, 2013, 10:00am. *"It's Time!"* An object theatre production for the very young, when each moment is a discovery and magic is in the emotions. Performed by Isabelle Kessler, "It's Time!" lasts 35 minutes and is one of several shows toured by Loren Kahn Puppet & Object Theatre.

***January 19th and 26th, 2013. *Visitor Center Volunteer Training*.** Registration required. Call 897-8831 for details.

***January 26th, 2013, 10:00 AM - 12:30 PM. *Trail Watch Volunteer Training*.** Join the City of Albuquerque Open Space Division volunteer team and support a community-based commitment to promote conservation and appreciation for the integrity of our local public lands.

FEBRUARY 2013

***ONGOING: FIRST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH, 7:30 AM. *Guided Bosque Nature Walk*.** See January listing.

Winter Hours (through May): Sundays 9:00am -10:30am, Wednesdays, 9:30 - 11 a.m. *Yoga with a View*. Yoga with instructor Jenny Dominique. See January description for details.

January-February 2012. *Trees, Rocks and Dirt, Volcano Vista HS*. High school art students respond to the value of Open Space within their city. See page 3 for details.

MARCH 2013

NOTICE: The Visitor Center will be closed starting March 4th through April 12th for improvements to the main entrance road. The scale of the construction project will prevent cars from driving on the road and accessing the facility. Improvements will include permeable paving stones on the driveway which will decrease dust, provide a smoother transition onto pavement, and is a more sustainable way to manage the roadway. The design will decrease erosion and improve overall drainage in this part of the Visitor Center facility. Your patience is appreciated and we look forward to seeing you in April!

****This event requires pre-registration. Call 897-8831 or email openspace@cabq.gov to register.***

The Open Space Visitor Center is located at 6500 Coors Blvd NW between Montañó and Paseo del Norte at the end of Bosque Meadows Rd.

Birding in the Bosque, Part 1 in a Series

By George Peknik, Open Space Trail Watch Volunteer

Visitors to the City's Major Public Open Spaces are treated to the arrival of thousands of the locally celebrated Sandhill Cranes on their annual migration south. During the day, cranes, which are thought to be the oldest known bird species on Earth, find food in open fields. At night, they roost on Rio Grande sandbars. They can be seen in the North Valley at the Open Space Visitor Center, at Los Poblanos Fields Open Space, and as well as in the *bosque* (the forest along the Rio Grande).



In addition to thousands of cranes, Albuquerque open spaces are teeming with the sights and sounds of many other species of migrating birds at this time of year, including gaggles of Canada Geese, *hosts* of sparrows, *sords* of mallards, and *murders* of crows. The bosque is full of singing birds every morning, and it's fair to say that the lives of many birders in the city are enhanced by these immigrants. We recently caught up with three Albuquerque bird-watchers – all Open Space Trail Watch volunteers - to learn more about what they follow and the benefits they feel that they derive from watching the birds.

The Magic of Cooper's Hawks

G.P: Please tell us about you and birds.

Maurice Mackey: "Being an Open Space Trail Watch Volunteer gives me an opportunity to not only help monitor our Open Space lands but do some birding at the same time. I'm also a Volunteer for Hawks Aloft a local conservation group that monitors avian species and their relationship to their vegetative communities throughout the state.

"This year I monitored two Cooper's Hawk nests in the bosque, one just north of Montano on the West Side. Both nests had three young birds hatched, fledged (acquired the feathers necessary for flight), then began flying and left the immediate area of the nest. The adults can be very aggressive in protecting the nests when young are present. I've been attacked numerous times while observing the nest. (Never been injured or even hit) For this reason, we try to minimize disturbing the birds. People walking in the bosque should always seek to avoid the nests."

G.P: What benefits do you get from birding?

Maurice Mackey: "Birding in the bosque can be very rewarding. The most common birds found there are: Mourning Doves, White Breasted Nuthatch, Red Shafted Flicker, Black Chinned Hummingbirds, Downy Woodpecker, Blue Grosbeak, Summer Tanager and House Finches. Of course this is just a small sample of the birds one can see there in the summer. During spring and fall migrations many other birds can be seen. They make me feel good every day."

Read my "Albuquerque Wellness" articles at Examiner.com:
www.examiner.com/wellness-in-albuquerque/george-peknik



Fall Events Wrap Up

~Jim Sattler and Kent Swanson

On behalf of the Open Space Division, we would like to thank all the volunteers who contributed to the success of our fall volunteer projects. Now that winter is here, we can take a break and spend some time enjoying our accomplishments.

For **Día del Río**, 91 dedicated volunteers came together to honor one of New Mexico's most precious natural resources, the Rio Grande. During the day volunteers, City Open Space staff, and our partner organization the West Central Alliance of Neighbors (WeCAN!): loaded an entire trash compactor full of trash from the bosque, in addition to removing large miscellaneous debris and tires; sorted recycling including glass, cardboard, plastic bags, and aluminum; and worked on trail improvements and removing

invasive vegetation on the northwest corner on the Central Avenue bosque trail system.

On **Make a Difference Day**, which takes place the last Saturday of October each year, 41 volunteers joined the Open Space Division and our partner organization the Nicodemus Wilderness Project once again to work on improvements at the Piedra Lisa Open Space located in the Sandia Foothills at the end of Candelaria. Special thanks go to the Open Space Alliance for cosponsoring the event!

For **National Public Lands Day**, we celebrated with our annual Geocache Event, which attracted 44 volunteers who worked on projects in the southern end of the Sandia Foothills near Copper. Yummy bagels and snacks were enjoyed by all thanks to our sponsors Wolfe's Bagels and the Open Space Alliance.

Events like Día del Río, Make a Difference Day, and National Public Lands Day bring the entire community together to help protect our City's precious natural resources. *Thank you all for your participation and we look forward to working with you next year!*

Announcing the 2013 Open Space Visitor Center Gallery Schedule of Exhibits

<p style="text-align: center;">January</p> <p><i>Trees, Rocks and Dirt</i> <i>Volcano Vista HS</i></p> <p><i>Opening January 12th, Reception 3-5pm</i> High School Art Students respond to the value of Open Space within their city. A variety of media and interpretations are expected to express the dialog these students have with Open Space properties such as the Petroglyph Monument, views of the West Mesa, the Bosque and Foothills.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">February</p> <p><i>Trees, Rocks and Dirt</i> <i>Volcano Vista HS</i></p> <p>See January for description</p> <p><i>Closes February 19th</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">March</p> <p style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold; margin-top: 20px;">CLOSED For Construction</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">April</p> <p><i>Revived</i> <i>Local Recycle, Upcycle Artists</i></p> <p><i>Opens April 6th</i> <i>Reception April 13th 3-5pm</i> A show of local found and reinvented objects of art. Also on display, Lost and Found in Open Space, a series of artifacts discovered in Open Space sites. This show will coincide with our annual Recycled Art Fair.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">May</p> <p><i>Revived</i> <i>Local Recycle, Upcycle Artists</i></p> <p>See April for description</p> <p><i>Closes May 26th</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">June</p> <p><i>This Time. This Place.</i> <i>Call for Entries: Local Photographers & Open Space Enthusiasts</i></p> <p><i>Opens June 1st,</i> <i>Reception June 8th, 3-5pm</i> An exhibit by local photographers who have captured moments of tension and balance in our natural environment. Their images evoke rather than explain the essence of Open Space lands.</p> <p><i>Closes June 30th</i></p>
<p style="text-align: center;">July</p> <p><i>Alluvial</i> <i>Local Artists</i></p> <p><i>Opens July 6th</i> <i>Reception August 3rd, 3-5pm</i> A handful of local artists will interpret and explore the concept "Alluvial." This will be a multi-media art show. Subject matter will include, yet is not limited to: adjective, noun + undeveloped land + natural resources + non-representational + ecology + matter + abstraction + color + pattern + habitat + water + time + words + gravity. . . .</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">August</p> <p><i>Alluvial</i> <i>Local Artists</i></p> <p>See July for description</p> <p><i>Closes September 1st</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">September</p> <p><i>Colloquial Goods</i> <i>Traditional New Mexican Arts</i></p> <p><i>Opens September 7th, Reception 3-5pm</i> Wood sculpture, tin punch arts, pottery are all a means of taking the resources that are provided by the New Mexico landscape and carving, piercing or shaping them into something that communicates beauty, pride and skill. Or, more simply put, these are "colloquial goods."</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">October</p> <p><i>Colloquial Goods</i> <i>Traditional New Mexican Arts</i></p> <p>See September for description</p> <p><i>Closes October 27th</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">November</p> <p><i>Connected Webs</i> <i>Las Aranas Spinners and Weavers Guild</i></p> <p><i>Opening November 2nd, Reception 3-5pm</i> Weavings that exhibit the connections existing between technique, plant, animal, people and place. These weavers have draw from the lands of the Southwest for their hand dyed colors, hand spun threads and their woven patterns.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">December</p> <p><i>Connected Webs</i> <i>Las Aranas Spinners and Weavers Guild</i></p> <p>See November for description</p> <p><i>Closes December 29th</i></p>



La Cebolla del Duende (The Onion of the Duende)



Trail Watch Volunteer John Holder was cleaning up dog poop at the end Hilldale when he discovered a pile that resembled former President Richard Nixon. John placed the poop for sale on EBay and after a round of frantic bidding the poop sold for \$37.50. John graciously donated the proceeds to the Open Space Alliance.

Open Space employee, Sven Latka, was injured at the Open Space Administrative Office at Montessa Park when he inadvertently walked into a large, low hanging, foam snow flake decoration which poked him in the eye. Sven suffered from a scratched cornea, but is expected to make a full recovery. Parks and Recreation Safety Inspector, Dilbert MacDonald, responded to the accident by making all Open Space employees sit through a 4 hour safety lecture on the dangers of holiday decorations in the workplace. "I'm just glad I didn't walk into one of those Pulaskis they hang to celebrate National Trails Day", Sven commented.

A recent study conducted by a UNM PhD student at the Open Space Administrative Building at Montessa Park yielded startling conclusions. Raul Noir conducted research at the Montessa facility to see if there was correlation between sluggish computers and employee productivity. The surprising results will be published by UNM this spring. Although Raul is keeping the results a secret until it can be published he did say, "Aside from the productivity measure, one of the most surprising aspects of this study showed that Open Space employees are amazingly creative in how they actually complete their tasks without the aid of 21st century technology"

Montessa Park Open Space Administrative Building wins coveted Peter Keating Award!

"Since the building industry has been so slow during the last 4 years the Keating Institute has decided to revisit some older buildings that might have been over looked in the past", said Gail Francon of the Keating Institute. "The Montessa Park facility is truly a standout example of 1970's design. I especially like the cute giraffe door handles", Francon went on to say.

DUENDE POETRY

Poop

Scoop that poop!

Scoop that poop!

Put poop in its place – get it outta Open Space

When it comes to poop Bill's our man - he's got a steaming pile in his hand

Now every dogs gotta poop – but don't let it get on our tires and boots

Beat Trash

A Trash Poem:

No Deposit – No Return

*In the glitter
Of a fiery desert sunset
I wandered across the land
Only to find this is not the land of Cibola!
There are no cities of gold!
For all that glitters is broken glass
And little bits of trash
On one broken little sherd
Messages from the past still burn:*

No deposit

No return

MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY



Thanks to Our Awesome Sponsors!



La Dolce Vita Bakery

And Café
4300 Lomas Blvd NE,
Albuquerque, NM
(505) 232-7023



Calligraphy by Jay Lee Evans

Alamo?
 Better, Calabacillas.
 Don't ever forget
Gutierrez
 I just kinda like
 Major Natural Open Places...
Quiet Rinconada
stands tall
 Ultimately, Volcanos wither...
examine yonder Zebra

Trail Watch Volunteer Training



**Saturday,
 January 26,
 2013
 10am-
 12:30pm**

Join the City of
 Albuquerque
 Open Space

Division volunteer team and support a community-based commitment to promote conservation and appreciation for the integrity of our local public lands.

Contact Jolynn Maestas at jmaestas@cabq.gov or call 452-5207 to register.

Trail Damage in the Foothills

Please continue to be on the lookout for the person or persons responsible for unauthorized trail work that has occurred between Indian School and Hilldale. This work has involved the use of pry bars and sledge hammers to remove natural rock from trails 365, 365 A, 401 and the Hilldale Loop. The rock being removed is from natural veins of granite that run across the trails and act as steps or ramps and serve as natural transitions from one elevation to another. By removing these rocks these trails are being destabilized and will be subject to erosion.

Please be on the look out and report anyone carrying tools, removing rocks and cutting back or removing vegetation without a uniformed Open Space employee present. Removing rocks, vegetation or altering the trails is considered vandalism to City property and destruction of natural resources and violators can be fined.

To report any suspicious trail work being done on Open Space land contact the Open Space Dispatcher at 452-5206 between the hours of 8AM to 5:00PM or call 242-COPS to report this activity to the Albuquerque Police Department. Specify that you are in an Open Space area and request an Open Space officer respond. To report damage that has already been done contact Jim Sattler at 452-5213. To report damage to Forest Service trails contact Kerry Wood at 281-3304.

2013 Spring Volunteer Cleanup Project Schedule

Join the Open Space Division for our annual Spring Cleanups. We will be cleaning trash and graffiti, as well as working on trail improvement projects. And don't forget Bill's ever popular dog poop patrol!

March 30th: The Route 66 Open Space Cleanup. Help the Division clean up our newest Open Space, located in Tijeras Canyon near Four Hills.

Spring Cleanups in the Foothills:

- April 6th: Copper Trailhead
- April 13th: Indian School Trailhead
- April 20th: Menaul Trailhead
- April 27th: Piedra Lisa Trailhead (the end of Candelaria at Camino de la Sierra)



See the Open Space website www.cabq.gov/openspace or call 452-5200 for more details!

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 Sallie McCarthy, OSA Board President, at mccarthy_sal@hotmail.com

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: _____

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> NEW MEMBER | <input type="checkbox"/> \$15 STUDENT (18 & UNDER) / SENIOR | <input type="checkbox"/> \$250 SUSTAINING |
| <input type="checkbox"/> RENEWAL | <input type="checkbox"/> \$20 INDIVIDUAL | <input type="checkbox"/> \$500 CORPORATE |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRAILS DAY | <input type="checkbox"/> \$30 FAMILY | <input type="checkbox"/> \$1000 LIFE MEMBER |

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: **Open Space Alliance, P.O. Box 91265, Albuquerque, NM 87199**





Open Space Alliance

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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