

# Open Space Acquisition Priorities

## City of Albuquerque

### Parks and Recreation Department

### Open Space Division

**April 2021**

**City of Albuquerque**  
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**Open Space Division**  
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**Open Space Advisory Board**

*The Tijeras Arroyo*



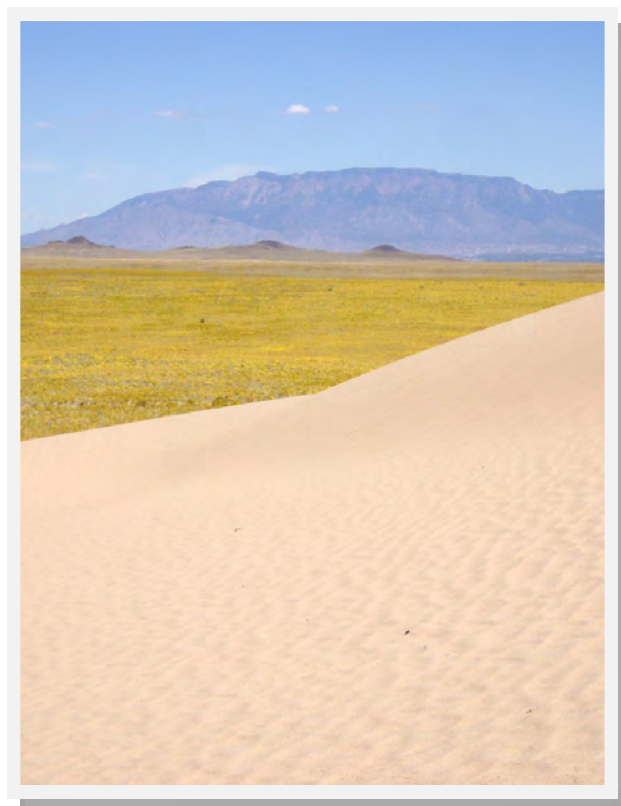
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**ALBUQUE**  
**RQUE** parks & recreation



The *Major Public Open Space Priority Acquisition* book provides an update on properties that have been placed on the Open Space acquisition list per Resolution C/SR-2016-O24. Recommendations for additional properties are also presented for City Council's consideration through the proposed Resolution R-21-134. The list has been approved by the Open Space Advisory Board (OSAB), and will be presented to the Mayor, and City Council for review and approval.

In 2016, City Council passed Ordinance O-2016-13 that instructs OSAB to recommend a list of properties suitable for acquisition through purchase, exchange, or any other suitable mechanism, for purpose of Major Public Open Space or public easement or rights of way for Open Space purposes. The location of these properties are consistent with the policies of the Albuquerque/Bernalillo County Comprehensive Plan.

Each property is unique in its natural and/or cultural resource significance. The acquisition of these important sites for Open Space will preserve and protect the land for the enjoyment of current and future generations and further the mission that Open Space provides to the citizens of this community. Note that these properties are not listed in order of importance, and shall be acquired based on such factors as availability and funding opportunities, in consultation with the OSAB.



*Photograph of the Northern Sand Dunes  
by Dr. Matt Schmader*

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# INTRODUCTION

## Overview

The City of Albuquerque began efforts to protect significant Major Public Open Space in 1969 with the City Goals Program centered on preserving the defining characteristics and unique natural features of the metropolitan area. A number of citizen efforts were specifically focused on protecting the Volcanoes, Sandia Mountains, Rio Grande Bosque and other significant areas that were under threat of development and degradation.

Today, the City of Albuquerque has one of the most impressive Open Space programs in the nation due to these early efforts, which serves Albuquerque's large metropolitan area and promotes health and wellbeing through abundant outdoor recreation and education opportunities for all its citizens. However, the city's infrastructure and development continue to grow and expand. This sprawl should be balanced with ongoing efforts to protect significant open space areas and preserve important natural and cultural resources. Additional protected lands are needed to buffer and expand existing Major Public Open Space, increase equitable access to open space within Albuquerque's developed core, and provide open space for future neighborhoods and communities that are planned in Albuquerque's still developing areas.

This acquisition booklet identifies important areas for protection and preservation. Most of the areas identified are already on the acquisition list approved by City Council in 2016 and have long been identified as requiring protection. A few new properties are proposed for City Council review that are all adjacent to existing Major Public Open Space.

## Major Public Open Space

Major Public Open Space (MPOS) is an integrated system of lands and waters that are acquired, preserved, and managed by the City of Albuquerque to retain their natural character, conserve natural and cultural resources, provide opportunities for outdoor education and low-impact recreation, and define the boundaries of the urban environment.

The 2017 Albuquerque/Bernalillo County Comprehensive Plan similarly identifies MPOS goals as protecting the integrity and quality of the region's natural features and environmental assets and providing opportunities for outdoor recreations and education. The MPOS Rank II Facility Plan specifies the following purposes for preserving these areas:

- Conservation of natural resources and environmental features
- Provisions of opportunities for outdoor education and recreation
- Shaping of the urban form
- Conservation of archaeological resources
- Provision of trail corridors
- Protection of the public from natural hazards.

### **Priority List Approved by City Council**

In 2016, City Council passed resolution R.2016.024 that approved and adopted official Open Space acquisition priorities for the City. The approved properties are as follows:

- Cerro Colorado Volcano
- Northern Geologic Window (North 1/3)
- Northern Sand Dunes
- Rio Puerco Escarpment
- Tijeras Arroyo Biological Zone
- Volcano Cliffs Sector Development Plan Parcels:
  - Boca Negra Arroyo Middle Branch
  - La Cuentista
- Volcano Heights (State Land Office Parcel)

In addition to the acquisitions listed above, City Council approved adding the following priorities in R-21-134:

- Calabacillas Pueblo II, totaling .52 acre
- Diamond Rock/Four Hills, 145.42 acres in the Four Hills/Manzano area
- Poole Property, totaling 22.72 acres on the West Side adjacent to the San Antonio Oxbow Open Space

### **Property Evaluation**

The Open Space Advisory Board developed an evaluation scoresheet to assess any new properties that may be considered for acquisition. The evaluation process helps to determine relative significance and priorities for acquisition while eliminating areas that are not appropriate for the Open Space system. The evaluation is comprised of scores in five clusters:

- Cultural and Natural Resources
- Recreation and Education
- Inclusion and Equity
- Funding, Readiness and Ongoing Management
- Other Considerations

Each cluster is further broken down by a set of scoring criteria and weighted for a possible 60 points.

The Cultural and Natural Resources section has the most points due to the fragility of sensitive ecosystems and cultural sites as well as the importance these properties play in the larger scheme of preservation and a protected land network. Once places with high natural and cultural resource value are developed, they cannot be returned to their natural state. Such considerations drove Open Space acquisition to prioritize the protection of areas such as the Bosque, the West Mesa (Petroglyph National Monument) and Foothills. Had these areas been converted to residential and Commercial development, Albuquerque would have lost its irreplaceable natural features that comprise the “natural architecture” of place and which, in many ways, are the very reason that humans settled in the middle Rio Grande Valley. It is of utmost importance that the City do what it can to preserve these and similar areas for future generations and to promote a sustainable, flourishing community.

There are a number of criteria in the Cultural and Natural Resources cluster including:

- Historical and cultural significance
- Natural resource preservation
- Significant wildlife habitats and ecosystems
- Protection of the public from natural hazards and other disruptive land uses
- Riparian ecosystems, wetlands, and arroyos
- Viewshed
- Scenic and respite values
- Unique landforms

The Recreation and Education cluster is broken down into two main criteria that include the property’s opportunities for low-impact recreation and education uses. A major pillar of the Open Space program since its inception is to provide low-impact recreation and environmental education opportunities to the public. The Open Space Division (OSD) has developed a robust program over the past 35 years that engages hundreds of thousands of people each year through weekly programs and large events at the Open Space Visitor Center, seasonal hikes and outdoor events throughout the MPOS network of properties, and more active programs like archery and firearms competitions at the Shooting Range Park. Additionally, the OSD has a particular focus on engaging youth through conservation programs that employs young adults to assist with natural resource management while they gain job skills. Hundreds of school groups also go on field trips to the MPOS each year to learn about these important areas, as well as to participate in citizen science projects and stewardship activities such

as tree plantings. Along with organized programs, the network of Major Public Open Space properties supports numerous recreation activities from dog walking and bird watching to mountain biking and horseback riding. Albuquerque open space offers great outdoor adventures and quiet contemplation in nature for residents and visitors. New potential properties are evaluated in how it may further support this important criteria. The two major criteria in the Recreation and Education Potential cluster include:

- Availability for recreational use by the public
- Availability for educational use by the public

The Inclusion and Equity cluster pays particular attention to issues of equity, community health and strong neighborhoods. MPOS defines the City's main sections. Westside neighborhoods have outstanding access to Open Space at City and NPS-owned lands within Petroglyph National Monument and on the West Mesa; the Bosque is a fantastic resource for residents in the North and South Valley and a large percentage of the City lives within 1-2 miles of the Bosque; and the Foothills/Four Hills MPOS lands frame the Northeast and East portions of the City. While this is an impressive network, it is important to recognize that Open Space properties are not uniformly distributed throughout the City—that is, not every neighborhood is immediately adjacent to Open Space. Equitable access to Open Space includes the important work of encouraging visitation and use by all sectors of the City. The OSD is prioritizing lowering barriers to Open Space access in order to increase equity. This includes efforts to improve transportation connections to Open Space, increase visibility of Open Space, and make Open Space more welcoming to diverse populations. The OSD has also recently developed programs in low-income areas to further engage families and young children in nature-based experiences in their local communities that provide a stepping-stone to explore MPOS and other public lands. These programs are essential to ensure a future population who value and support the ongoing stewardship and preservation of MPOS. Additionally, research shows that outdoor experiences play a vital role in the development of essential functions as well as overall health and wellbeing for children and adults. These experiences are especially important to underserved sectors of Albuquerque where stress and health issues are a bigger factor in people's lives. New properties for consideration are evaluated on how accessible they are and ranked higher if in underserved areas of the City or near public transportation.

The three major criteria in the Inclusion and Equity cluster include:

- Provides equitable resources, recreational and educational opportunities for the public
- Located in low-income areas
- Ease of public access



The Funding, Readiness and Ongoing Management cluster incorporates logistical considerations by answering basic questions such as: Is the property owner willing to sell? Does the City have the resources to manage the property? Is there additional agency support to aid in the purchase of the property? These set of criteria will best direct the limited resources the City has for acquisition and ensure properties on the list are realistically manageable.

The criteria for the Funding, Readiness and Ongoing Management cluster include:

- Municipal, county, state, federal or other organization/business assistance with acquisition
- Management maintenance resource availability
- Project readiness and landowner willingness
- Swap availability
- Capital funds availability
- Legal and practical access

The last cluster, Other Considerations, deals with additional issues including the urgency to purchase a property due to municipal growth and expansion. The criteria for this cluster considers planned growth in new areas as well as the threat that development may have on existing MPOS. The OSD faces increased management challenges as the city continues to experience development and population increase. Some of these challenges include issues with erosion, increased trash and vandalism, user created trails, loss of habitat and impacts to wildlife. With proper planning and coordination, some of these issues can be reduced; however, one of the best strategies is to create a buffer between the MPOS and planned development by purchasing adjacent lands or through other means such as promoting private open space and conservation easements. It is also advantageous to increase the size of particular MPOS to created a better trail network while allowing for wildlife corridors and preservation of habitat.

The criteria for the Other Considerations cluster include:

- Degree of development pressure
- Proximity to or connections with existing MPOS or other public lands
- Conservation easement potential
- Partial use or access
- BernCo Green Print Score

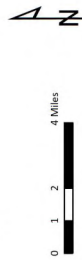
### **Acquisition and Funding**

The City of Albuquerque shall pursue purchase of properties on the approved

acquisition list using a variety of means and taking advantage of opportunities that arise. Funds for acquisition may come from fee simple purchase, acquisition of easements, negative easements, licenses, leases, General Obligation bonds, impact fees, quality of life taxes, potential federal sources through the Land and Water Conservation Fund, private gifts and donations or any other reasonable mechanism or any combination that allows for the preservation and enjoyment of these properties for the general public.










# City of Albuquerque Open Space Network

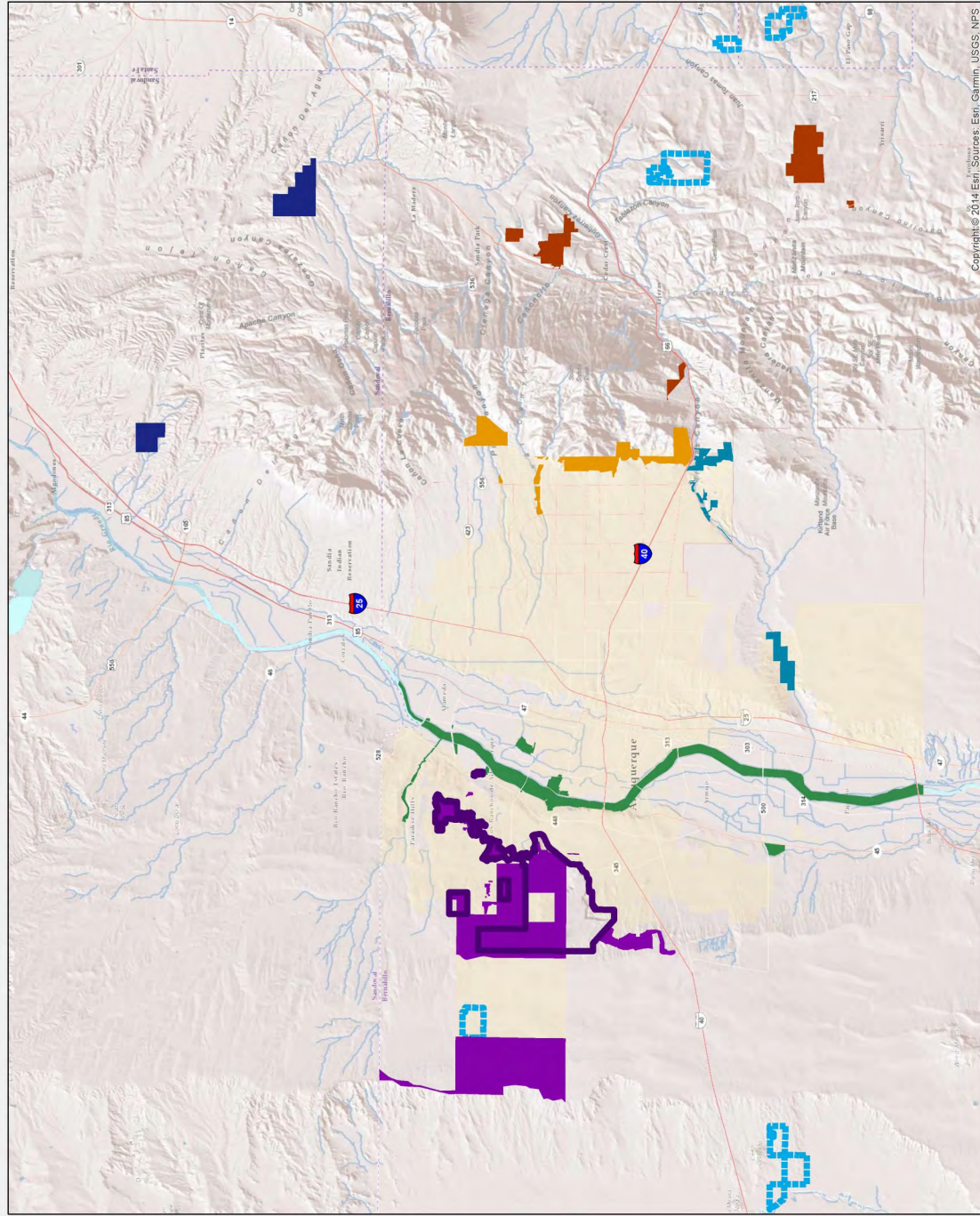
Open Space  
Priority Acquisition Book  
2021



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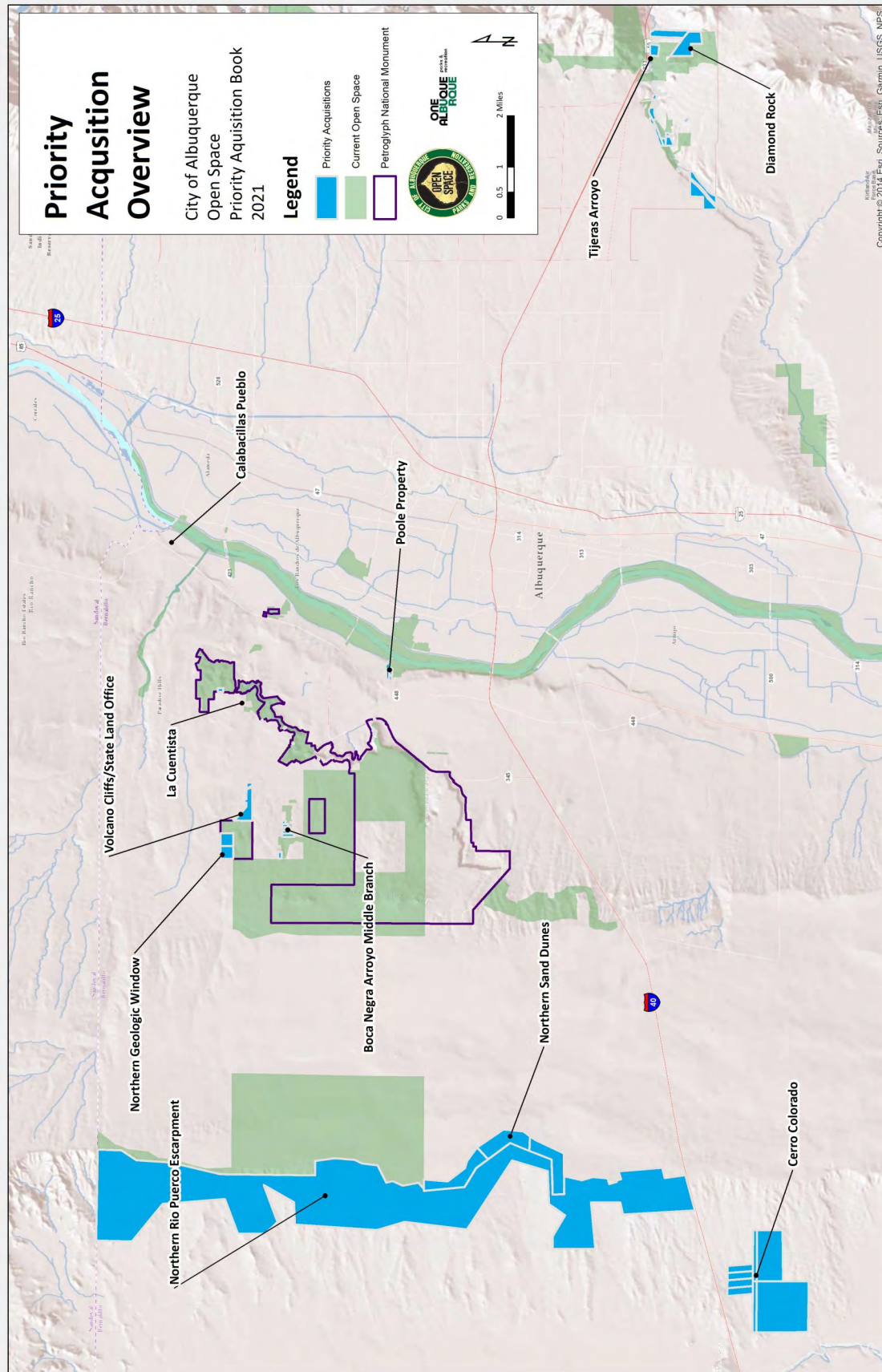
## Legend

-  Monument
-  Open Space Trust Lands
-  City of Albuquerque
- Open Space Region**
  -  East Mountains
  -  Rio Grande Valley State Park and Farmlands
  -  Petroglyph National Monument and West Mesa
  -  Sandia Foothills
  -  Sandoval County
  -  Tijeras Arroyo/Manzanos



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# **Open Space Acquisition Properties**

- I. Tijeras Arroyo Biological Zone & Diamond Rock
- II. Petroglyph National Monument Area and Buffer Zone:
  - Boca Negra Arroyo Middle Branch
  - La Cuentista
  - Northern Geologic Window
- III. Calabacillas Pueblo II
- IV. Poole Property



## TIJERAS ARROYO BIOZONE

**Location:** The Tijeras Arroyo Biological Zone is located in the Tijeras Arroyo east of Four Hills Road along NM 333 (the frontage road of I-40). It comprises of a 3.7-mile component of the Tijeras Arroyo and includes parcels under multiple private and public ownership.

**Description:** Tijeras Arroyo is the longest tributary arroyo to the

Rio Grande in Bernalillo County. It remains largely in a natural, unchannelized state without pavement or major alterations.

City Council initiated an effort to protect this area of the Tijeras Arroyo. Impacts of urbanization, dumping, and illegal activities such as off-road vehicle use in the area were quickly degrading the riparian habitats of the Arroyo. The City Council responded to public concern with an initiative to preserve the site as an Open Space Biological Preservation Zone. As of 2014, the Tijeras Arroyo Biological Zone Resource Management Plan (TABZ) was formally adopted by the City Council as a Rank III plan.

The objective of the BioZone is to preserve remaining native vegetation and wildlife habitat as well as to restore habitat where feasible within the TABZ study area. This area is an important riparian area that provides essential habitat and a corridor for wildlife. Another important objective is to provide increased opportunities for low-impact recreation under public ownership through a connected trail system and interpretive signs.

The Tijeras Arroyo also portrays a unique and living history that has played a critical role in Albuquerque's development as a city. Prior to the Spanish arrival, the area served as a settlement for the Tiguex people and important corridor by other indigenous communities including Comanche's and bands of Apaches for hunting, harvesting and trading. Remnant sites and artifact scatters are found throughout the area that speaks of this ancient time that dominated most of the area's history. After the Spaniards settled in Albuquerque, the Cañon de Carnué Land Grant was established in 1763 as a Genizaro community to ensure Albuquerque's security at the pass between the Sandia and Manzano



Mountains. Additional small outlier communities were also settled in the East Mountains that relied on dryland farming, harvesting wood, piñon and other locally sourced goods to sell or trade in town. The traditions of these communities are still celebrated with annual ceremonial dances and festivities. The area played a vital role in the 1900s as Route 66, and later I-40, connected the plains on the east with the Rio Grande valley through the canyon. Parts of Route 66 and historic establishments such as Little Beavertown preserve elements of our city's early growth. Keeping the Tijeras Arroyo Corridor protected and intact will ensure that these traditions will not be lost. Rather, by protecting this area for future generations, the City has an opportunity to lift up this story through a trail network featuring nodes of interpretation so people can enjoy the natural and cultural beauty of the Tijeras Arroyo.

**Functions the property will serve:**

Primary functions would be the conservation of landforms, urban design, protecting aquifer recharge, wildlife corridors and low-impact recreation such as hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding, education and interpretation. The Open Space Division is currently working on a trail and interpretive plan for the Singing Arrow and Tijeras Arroyo area. Additionally, the OSD is partnering with Talking Talons Youth Leadership to lead fieldtrips with local schools and site visits at the Singing Arrow Community Center to bring greater awareness of the ecological and cultural significance of this area.

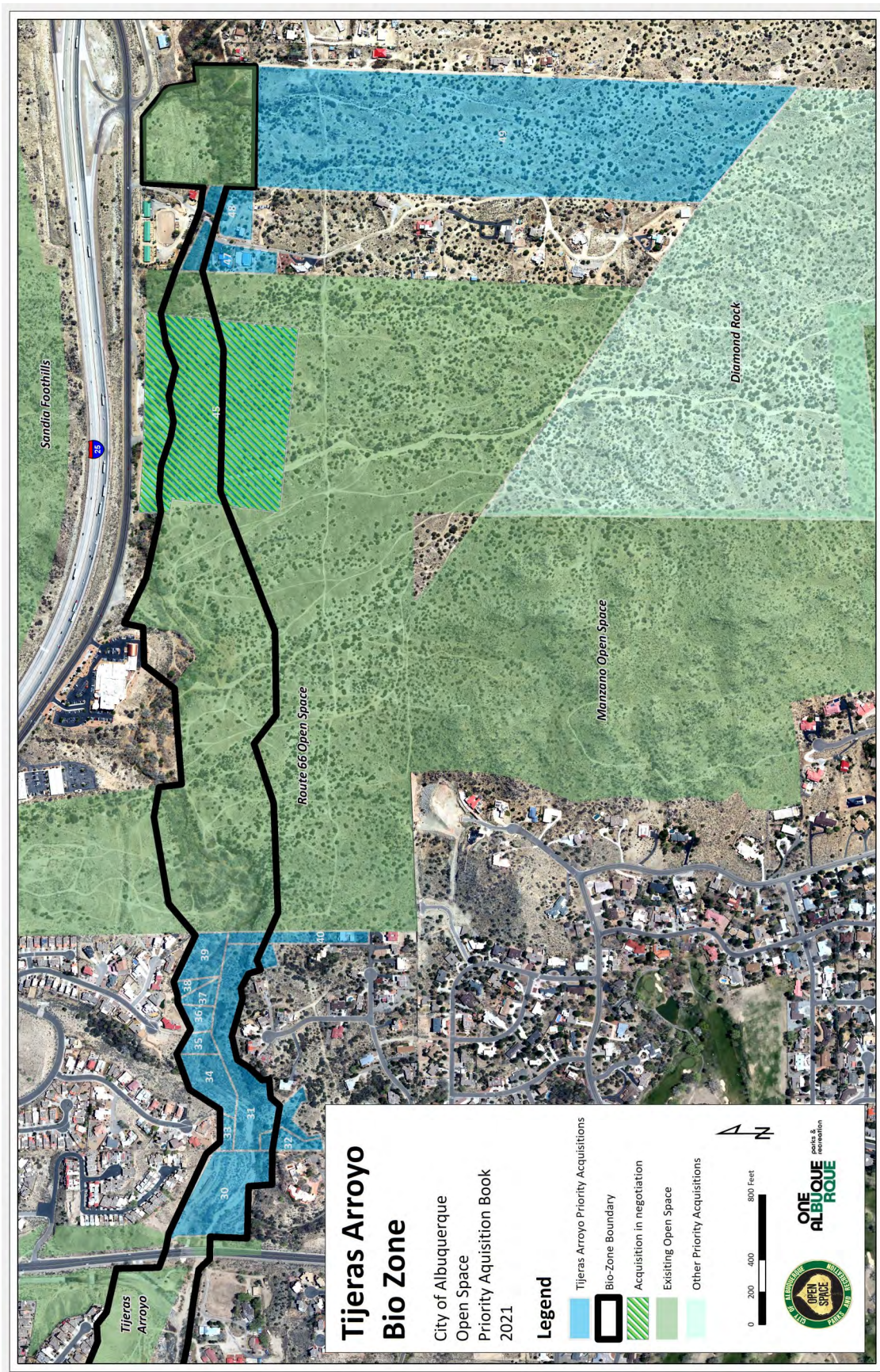
**Size:** Approximately 120 acres

**Land Status:** The TABZ Plan recommends that the City acquire control over more land parcels in order to properly manage, restore, monitor, and conduct further studies within the BioZone. The OSD can only improve and manage lands that are acquired by the Division.

Since 2018, the City of Albuquerque acquired six parcels (20.8 acres in Vista Four Hills, and four additional parcels totaling approximately 125 acres east of Route 66 Open Space). The City is currently negotiating the purchase of an additional parcel east of Route 66 measuring approximately 24.69 acres.

The City of Albuquerque intends to continue to purchase properties when possible as well as investigate opportunities for land exchange, conservation easements and other opportunities to protect this important area. Additionally, there may be opportunities to work with other local entities including Bernalillo County and the Carnué Land Grant to cooperatively purchase and manage historic sites within the BioZone.





# Tijeras Arroyo Bio Zone

City of Albuquerque  
Open Space  
Priority Acquisition Book  
2021

## Legend

- Tijeras Arroyo Priority Acquisitions
- Bio-Zone Boundary
- Acquisition in negotiation
- Existing Open Space
- Other Priority Acquisitions





**Tijeras Arroyo Bio Zone Acquisition Parcels**  
**(See map on the previous page for location of parcels)**

**Note:** The parcel numbers indicated in this chart do not correspond to the acquisition list in the Tijeras Arroyo Biological Zone Resource Management Plan (TABZ). The TABZ Plan lists a total of 25 parcels recommended for purchase to Fully protect the Biological Zone defined by the Plan. The following list only includes parcels that were determined to be of high priority for acquisition, and correspond to the sites previously identified by the OSD for purchase as future Open Space.

Parcel Number	Acres	
30	4	
31	15.95	
32	0.88	
33	0.5092	
34	2.0955	
35	0.645	
36	0.6392	
37	0.6377	
38	0.4102	
39	0.9449	
40	0.5001	
45	24.69	
47	2.22	
48	2	
49	53.03	
<b>Total</b>	<b>109.1518</b>	

## MANZANO/FOUR HILLS (DIAMOND ROCK)

**Location:** South of Interstate 40 at the base of the Manzano Mountains and abutting the Manzano/Four Hills Major Public Open Space on the west and Route 66/Tijeras Arroyo Open Space on the north.

**Description:** This privately owned 145.5 acres is for sale to develop for 117 platted residential lots. It is under severe threat of development. Due to this property abutting current City owned Major Public Open Space it is highly desirable by the Open Space Division to look into purchasing the property to conserve the land as natural Open Space before it gets developed as residential homes.

**Functions the property will serve:** This property would expand the existing Manzano/Four Hills Major Public Open Space owned and managed by the City and its Open Space Division. The property would provide habitat for wildlife, conserve the land in a natural state in perpetuity, protect any natural and cultural resources it may have, and provide for great low impact recreational activities. Acquiring this land would protect four edges that are abutting the currently owned and managed Manzano/Four Hills MPOS.



**Size:** 145.5 acres.

**Land Status:** This land is currently on the market for sale and is platted out to become 117 residential lots. It is surrounded by Major Public Open Space on the west and north and by the base of the Manzano Mountains to its east. It is in close proximity to Interstate 40, Kirtland Air Force Base and Sandia National Labs.









## **BOCA NEGRA ARROYO (MIDDLE BRANCH)**

and

## **LA CUENTISTA**

**Location:** South of the North Geologic Window of the Petroglyph National Monument in the east section of the Boca Negra Arroyo, and in the La Cuentista Subdivision.

**Description:** The parcels are adjacent to other Open Space properties and contain archaeological sites and other important cultural and geologic features. As development moves closer to the area, protecting these sites will create a buffer to help protect the Petroglyph National Monument and complete connections between Major Public Open Space in the Middle Boca Negra Arroyo while conserving more land in an increasingly urbanized part of the city. As the area builds out and people move closer to the Petroglyph National Monument, high impact recreation such as off-road vehicle use is increasing. If not prevented, motorized vehicles and other high impact uses such as illegal dumping can continue to cause damage to the natural and cultural resources of the area.

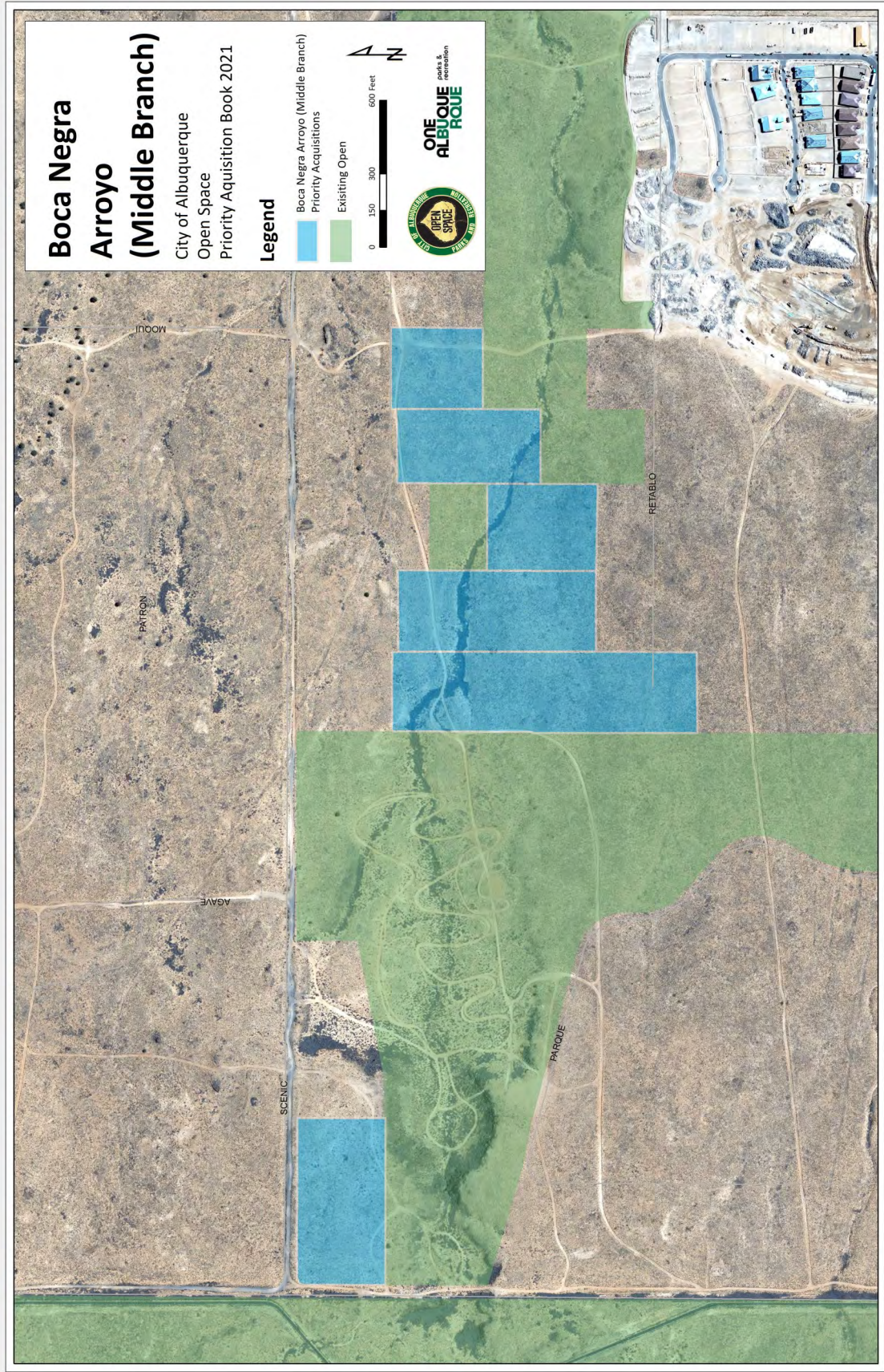
**Functions the properties will serve:** The main function the property will serve is conservation. These properties have culturally significant sites and are geologically and geographically connected to Petroglyph National Monument. The second function the property serves is helping to define the urban edge. If acquired, these parcels help shape development around them. The Middle Branch of the Boca Negra Arroyo forms a continuous corridor leading from the West Mesa escarpment to the volcanoes. La Cuentista is adjacent to the narrowest part of Petroglyph National Monument. The third function is low impact recreation. Trail corridors and connections will be enhanced in both areas upon acquisition.

### **Size:**

- Boca Negra Arroyo Parcels: 32.91 acres
- La Cuentista: 59.25 acres

**Land Status:** As of February 2021, the City owned 97.5 acres of land along the middle branch of the Boca Negra Canyon Arroyo. All parcels within the La Cuentista area have been either purchased or negotiated for future purchase with the owner.











## NORTHERN GEOLOGIC WINDOW (NORTH 1/3)

**Location:** West Mesa of Albuquerque, east of the northern volcanoes and west of the escarpments in Petroglyph National Monument.

**Description:** The Northern Geologic Window was placed within the Congressionally authorized boundary of Petroglyph National Monument when it was established in 1990. At present, two of the three 40 acre parcels in the northern one-third of the Northern Geologic Window are still in private ownership. Acquisition of the two remaining parcels is crucial in order to complete these land acquisitions within the National Monument. The geology of the "Window" is unique to the West Mesa. Basalt lava rock, including important petroglyphs, line the Northern Geologic Window. Wildlife and native vegetation are abundant, and excellent habitat is found throughout the area. Every year housing developments are built closer to this mesa-top canyon.

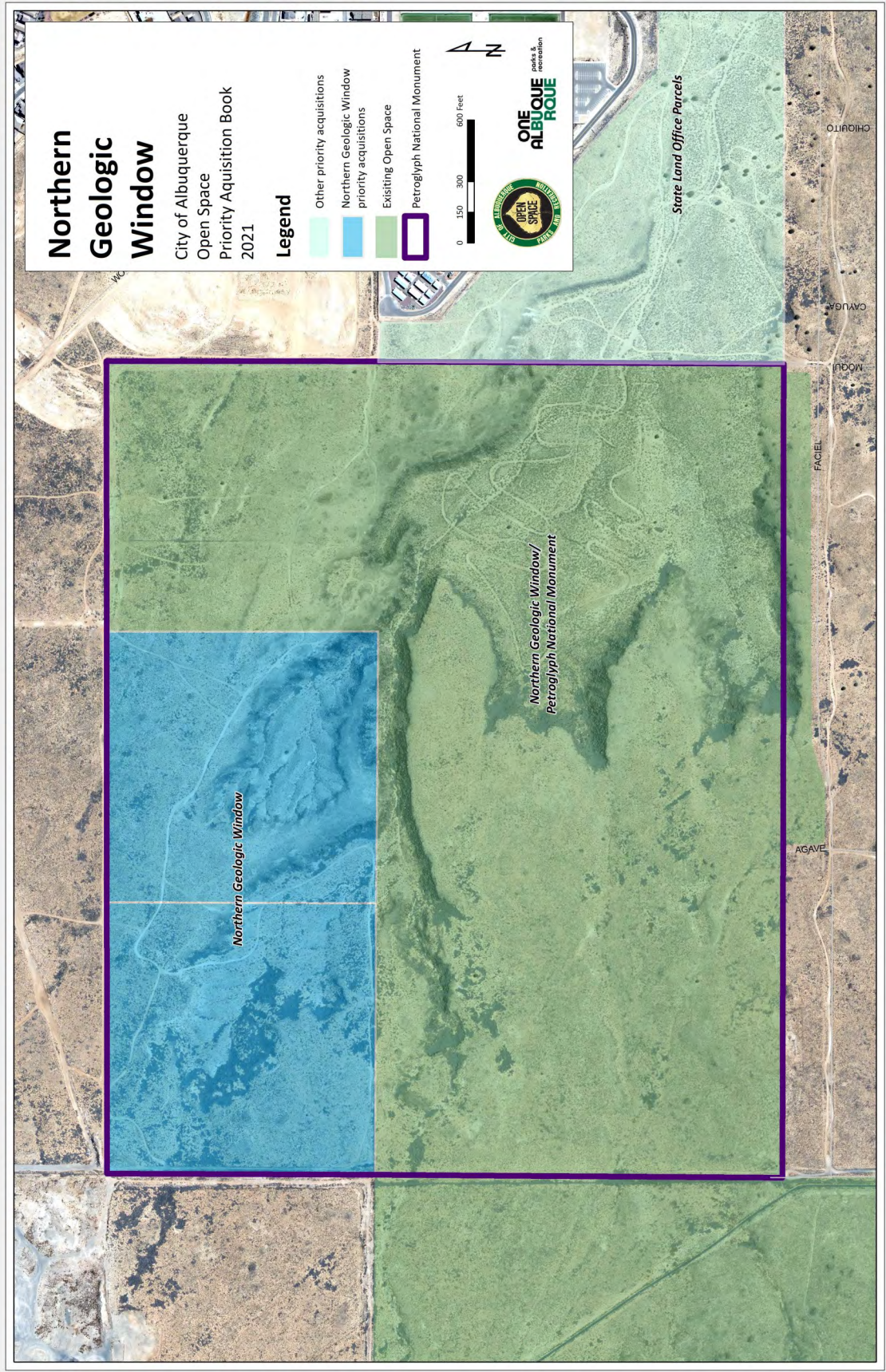
**Functions the property will serve:** The property will serve to protect unique landforms, viewsheds, natural and cultural resources, and critical wildlife habitat. The property also functions to define the urban landscape as nearby housing developments encroach on the area. The "Window" also provides opportunities for outdoor education and low impact recreation.

**Size:** Approximately 80 acres

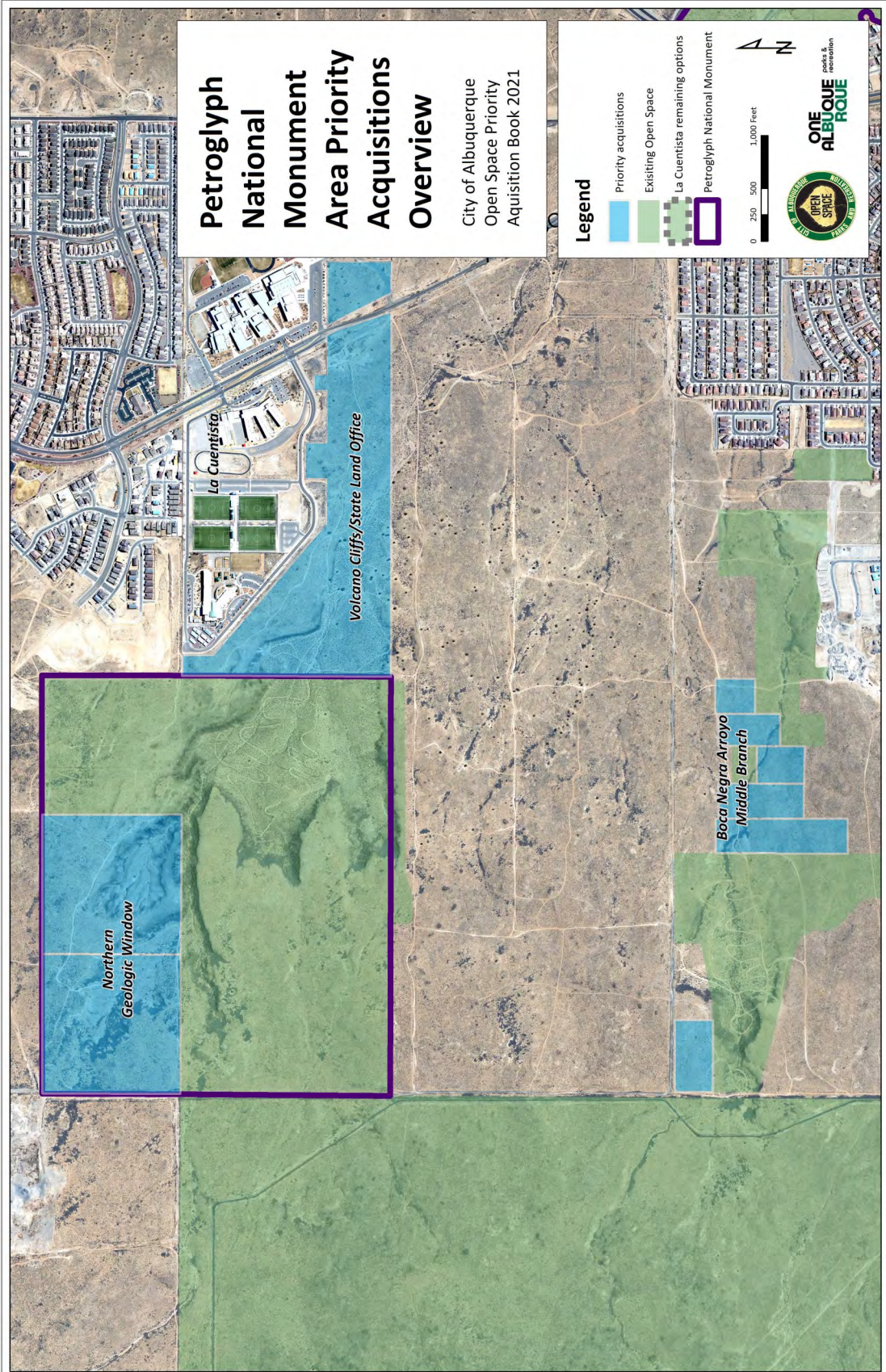
**Land Status:** This is a high-priority acquisition to protect archaeological sites and geologic features. This is an area of rapid development. Off-road vehicle use and dumping are prevalent on these private lands. The "Window" is designated in the 1988 Comprehensive Plan and is part of the City's acquisition and management responsibility of Petroglyph National Monument. Earlier attempts to acquire the properties by the City of Albuquerque and the National Park Service have not been successful.













## CALABACILLAS PUEBLO II

**Location:** This parcel is located adjacent to an existing Open Space parcel on the West Side; an exact location is not disclosed here to prevent looting or damage to artifacts present at the site.

**Description:** The Calabacillas Pueblo was one of the 12 historic pueblos in what Spanish explorers called the Tiguex Province in the modern-day Albuquerque area. Today, much of what was the Pueblo site has been developed, but several private parcels remain undeveloped.

The Open Space Division received one of these parcels totaling approximately 0.43 acres from a private donor in 2004. The adjacent privately owned parcel contains multiple visible artifacts and is unfenced, unprotected, and in an area attractive to commercial developers.



### **Functions the property will**

**serve:** Preservation and protection of an historic Pueblo site and remaining surface and subsurface level artifacts.

**Size:** .5219 acres

**Land Status:** This is a high-priority acquisition to protect an important archaeological site in an area of rapid development.



## POOLE PROPERTY

**Location:** On the West Side, adjacent to the Rio Grande State Park and San Antonio Oxbow Open Space

**Description:** The Poole property is a 23-acre parcel of undeveloped land directly adjacent to the Rio Grande bosque on Albuquerque's west side, north of Namaste Road. This property is incredibly special for two main reasons. First, it is one of a few remaining undeveloped parcels of this size directly abutting the bosque on the west side of the river between I-40 and Alameda that is still in private ownership. Second, the specific location, next to the San Antonio Oxbow, makes it invaluable from an environmental, conservation and public benefits perspective.



**Functions the property will serve:** The San Antonio Oxbow is the most important, and most sensitive, ecological area within the Rio Grande Valley State Park, and one of the most important sites in the entire central reach of the Rio Grande. The Oxbow wetlands is the only remaining river-connected wetlands between Bernalillo and Bernardo and an important habitat complex that includes the Oxbow, Rio Grande, bosque and sites across the river including the Rio Grande Nature Center State Park and the Candelaria Nature Preserve (also owned by the City). The Poole property provides over 20 acres of grasslands/salt brush habitat that buffers the San Antonio Oxbow wetlands and preserve. The Poole property will enhance and contribute significantly to the functions and public benefit of the existing MPOS through the following ways:

- protect public assets and investments and offer ecological services such as flood protection, noise abatement, dark sky protections, buffers to industrial or other incompatible uses;
- provide natural filtering of contaminants and soil stabilization/erosion control;
- support a diversity of species. Arid grasslands provide critical habitat for native birds and pollinators. Over 179 bird species have been identified in the area;
- help recharge aquifers, improve water quality and quantity, and offer aquatic-

- related habitat for native species;
- reduce fire risk and human pressure next to the Oxbow and bosque;
- offer scenic value and relief from the urban environment for the visitor, and protect unique or interesting geologic features; and
- offer increased low-impact recreation opportunities. The property has good public access, including access from public transportation (#155 City bus on Coors Blvd.).

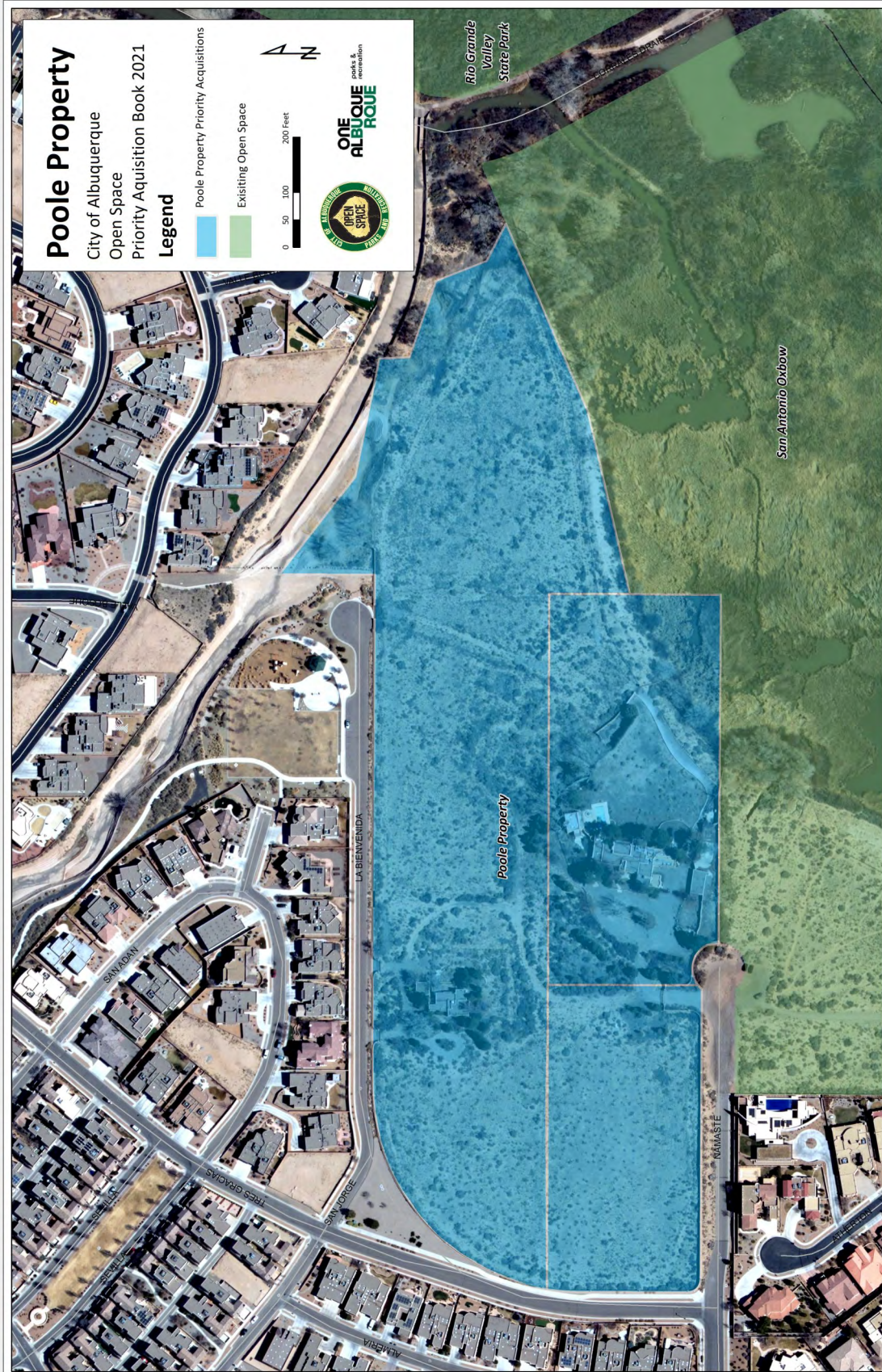
Protected from development and in public ownership, the Poole property will provide irreplaceable environmental protection to the San Antonio Oxbow and Rio Grande bosque that cannot be replicated or replaced.

**Size:** 22.72 acres

**Land Status:** This site was purchased by the City of Albuquerque with assistance from the State of New Mexico in April 2021.







# **Acquisition Properties for Land Exchange**

I. Cerro Colorado Volcano

II. State Land Office Parcel  
(Volcano Cliffs Master Plan)



## CERRO COLORADO VOLCANO

**Location:** South of I-40 just east of the Route 66 Casino on the eastern edge of the Rio Puerco Valley. For the purposes of this booklet, the Cerro Colorado Volcano has been defined in two ways. The “Area of Interest” was defined as the main geologic features of the volcano that would be ideal to protect. Adjacent land parcels were also identified on the map, which indicate those parcels that would need to be re-platted to protect the entire volcano.



**Description:** The Cerro Colorado Volcano could be protected as a significant natural gateway feature to the western edge of the City of Albuquerque. It is a prominent geologic feature lying within the Rio Puerco Valley just a few miles west of the city’s limits. It is by far the largest volcano in Bernalillo County. It is part of the Zuni-Bandera Volcanic Field and could potentially have geothermal properties.

Geologically, the volcano is known as a diatreme. A diatreme is a basalt breccia (breach) filled pipe formed by a gas-like explosion. When the diatreme breeches it normally will form a crater known as a Maar. Many times the volcanic material around the “pipe” or diatreme will erode away leaving a very rocky and needle like formation. Shiprock in Northern New Mexico is another good example. The volcano has special cultural significance to the Pueblo peoples of the region and is considered a sacred site.

**Functions the property will serve:** After acquisition, the property would mainly function for land conservation. New Mexico has more volcanic features than any other state and conservation of the Cerro Colorado is important in protecting this unique landform. Another important function the property will serve is for educational purposes. Preserving such a significant geologic feature provides the chance to educate visitors and the public about the landscape around them. The volcano would also function as a low impact recreational use area. Multi-use sustainable trails could be designed to accommodate users wishing to exercise while maintaining the sensitivity of the land.

**Size:** Area of Interest: 258 acres. All Parcels: 1,266 acres

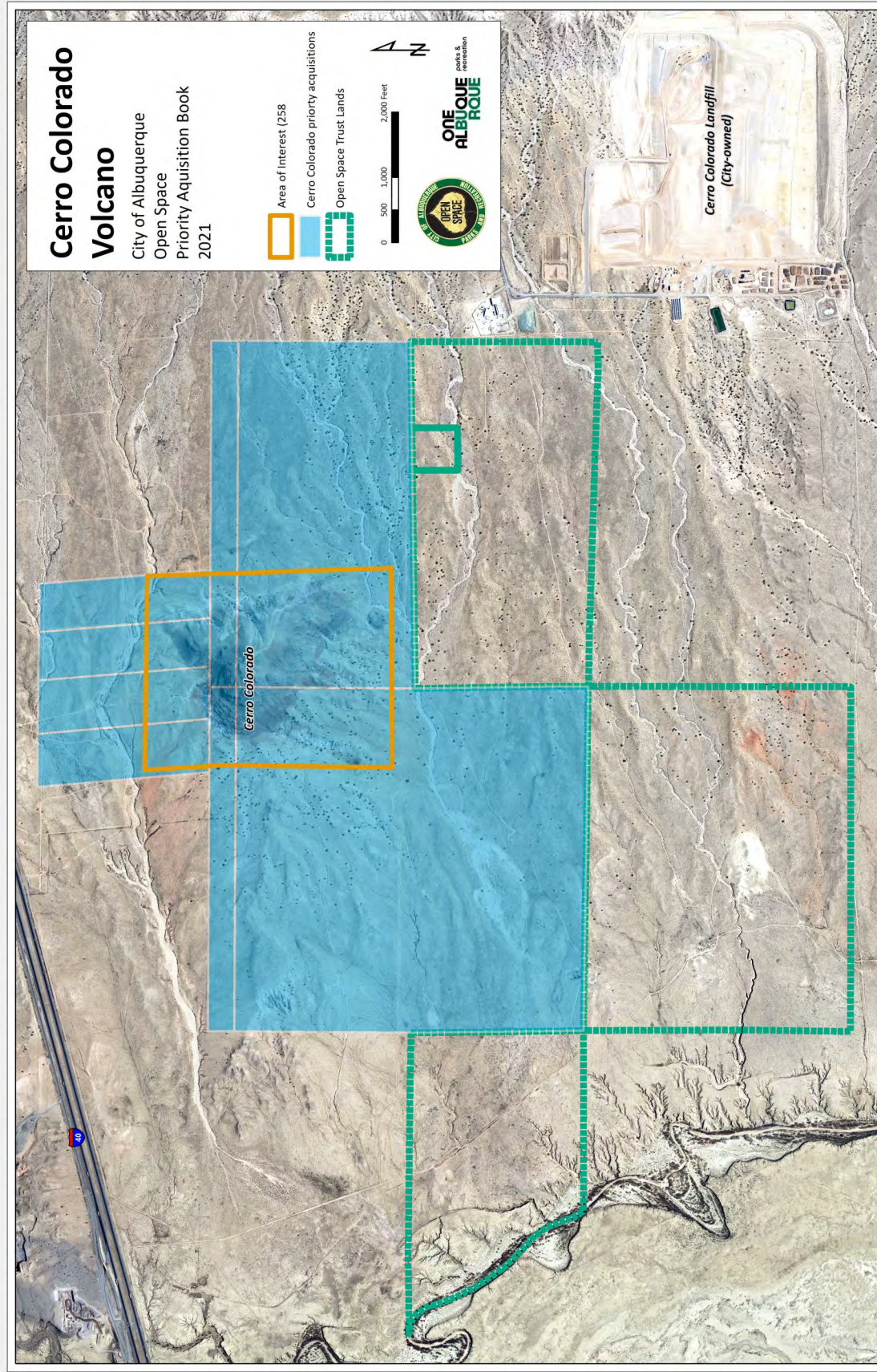
**Land Status:** This property was designated in the 1997 "1/4 Cent" gross-receipts tax for Parks and Open Space. The Cerro Colorado Volcano is privately owned but a land exchange is possible for acquisition. Nearby Elena Gallegos trust lands in the Rio Puerco Valley Trade could be used for the acquisition.



OSD staff made a site visit to the area in August of 2012. The volcano has been mined in the past for volcanic gravel material and could be mined again in the future if not preserved. There is evidence of dumping in the area and off-road vehicle use. Staff noted artifacts at the base of the volcano and unusual stone corrals and/or altars at the top.









## STATE LAND OFFICE (VOLCANO HEIGHTS MASTER PLAN)



**Location:** The area to be acquired is just east of the Northern Geologic Window (NGW) and is drained by the northern branch of the Boca Negra Arroyo.

**Description:** This parcel contains archaeological sites and other important cultural features. With urban development working its way closer to the NGW, this property can act as a buffer

to help protect the NGW while conserving more land in an ever growing area.

If not protected, motorized vehicle use and other high impact uses such as illegal dumping can cause damage to the natural and cultural resources found in the area.

**Functions the property will serve:** Land conservation of this parcel is the main function for the property. The property has several sites of cultural significance and is geologically and geographically connected to Petroglyph National Monument. The second function of the property is to help define the urban area. If acquired, this parcel helps to guide all development around it. Another function is low impact recreation and environmental education. Its location near three schools could have this parcel serve as a natural outdoor classroom and act as a relief for recreation demands on the nearby fragile areas within the Northern Geologic Window.

**Size:** Approximately 76 acres

**Land Status:** This parcel has been identified by the Volcano Heights Master Plan as an area to preserve for current and future generations. The parcel is only partially fenced and experiences severe impacts from off-road vehicles and trash dumping. The land is owned by the State Land Office and acquisition is very likely if an exchange can be pursued between the City of Albuquerque and the State Land Office as previously planned. The City of Albuquerque owns a parcel of land near the Town of Edgewood in Torrance County which is held in the Open Space Land Bank as a property to be sold or traded. A portion of the Exchange Land would be traded for the State Land parcel.





# Acquisition Properties Through Partnership

## I. North Rio Puerco Escarpment

## II. Northern Sand Dunes

### **Special Provisions for the Northern Sand Dune & Rio Puerco Escarpment:**

The Northern Sand Dunes and Rio Puerco Escarpment are on the priority list. However, no funds shall be used for acquisition or negotiation activity without prior approval by the City Council. The City of Albuquerque shall leverage strategic partnerships, including with Bernalillo County and federal partners, in hopes of securing funds to protect this important area from development or further resource damage. These properties are some of the last large vestiges of undeveloped land that exhibit the area's defining natural features, numerous archeological sites, breathtaking views and unique geological features, and can feasibly be protected from development as the Sandia Mountains and Volcanoes were. This area is listed under the Acquisition Priorities through Partnerships section in this booklet.



## NORTH RIO PUERCO ESCARPMENT

**Location:** This property is located on the far western extent of the West Mesa, on the eastern edge of the Rio Puerco Valley north of I-40 and west of Nine-Mile Hill.

**Description:** This area consists of steep gravel slopes, caliche caprocks, and escarpments on the eastern Rio Puerco Valley.

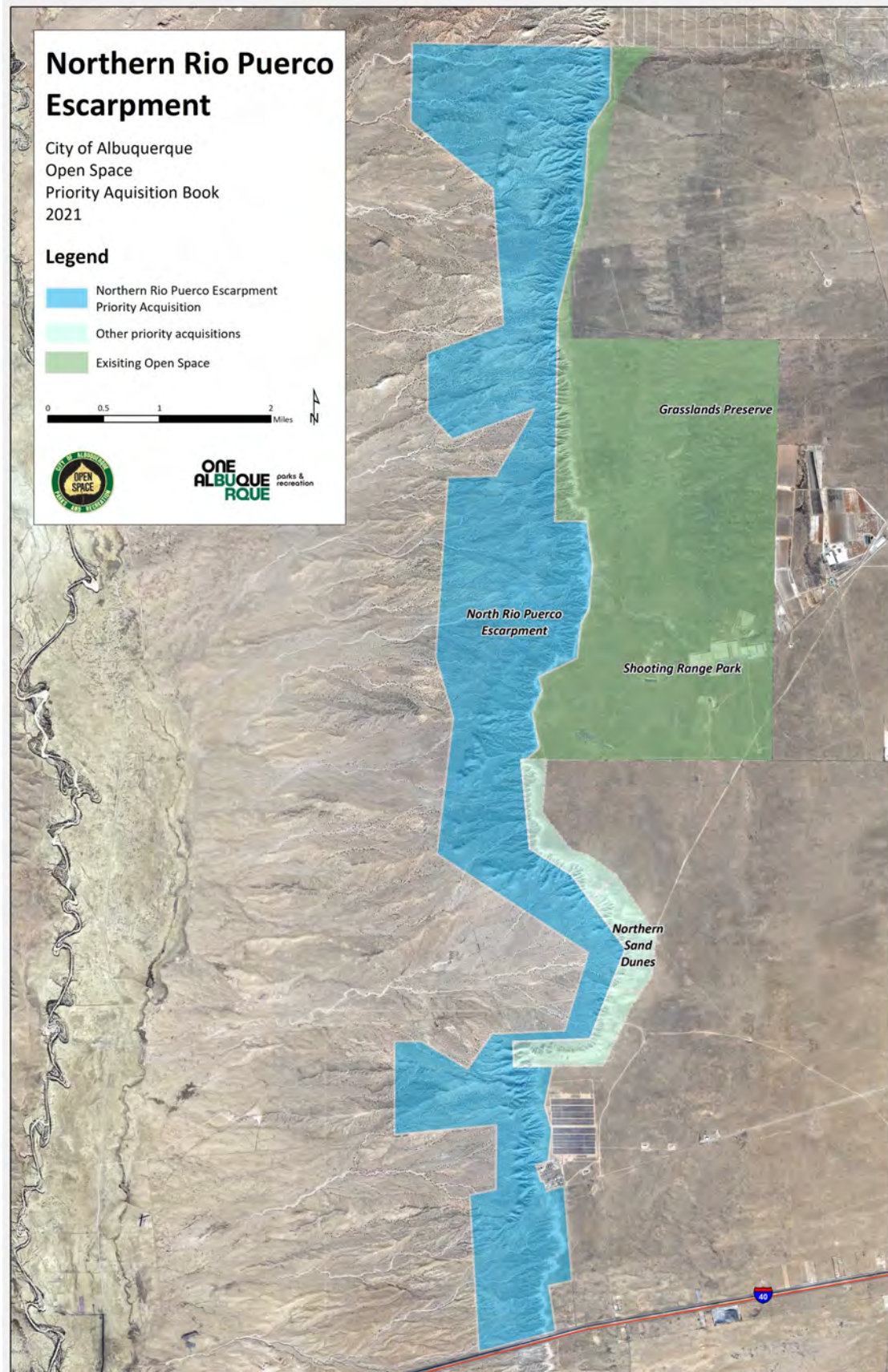


Acquisition area of the North Rio Puerco Escarpment was revised and studied with a slope analysis in 2011. The acreage of land recommended for acquisition by the City has increased since the Albuquerque / Bernalillo County Comprehensive Plan was originally drafted due to this slope analysis.

**Functions the property will serve:** The primary functions of the property will be conservation of land forms, habitats, archaeological sites, viewsheds, defining urban edges, and protection from the hazards of erosion. The area would be fenced and signed along the eastern perimeter and access, parking and trails would be limited. Low impact recreation would be available in the area.

**Size:** 6,710 acres

**Land Status:** The property is designated by the Albuquerque/Bernalillo County Comprehensive Plan for future acquisition. Updated site visits by Open Space Division staff are needed to determine the current land health and level of current and future urban development in the area. Funding sources will need to be identified.





## NORTHERN SAND DUNES

**Location:** Southwest of Double Eagle II Airport and Shooting Range State Park, and north of I-40. For acquisition purposes, boundaries have been refined to obtain all dune areas, portions of steep slopes on the Rio Puerco escarpment, and an adequate buffer or setback along the east edge of the dunes.

**Description:** The Northern Sand Dunes are an area of fragile and unique formations at the eastern edge of the Rio Puerco escarpment. Strong winds have blown the sand from the Rio Puerco Valley eastward where it settles along the top of the escarpment. Unique plants adapted to dune habitats include Indian Rice Grass, Heliotrope, Bush Muhly, Dove Weed and Small Flower Sand Verbena. Current impacts are from off-road vehicles, shooting, trash dumping, and unregulated use. Protecting these sand dunes is imperative to their preservation and survival.

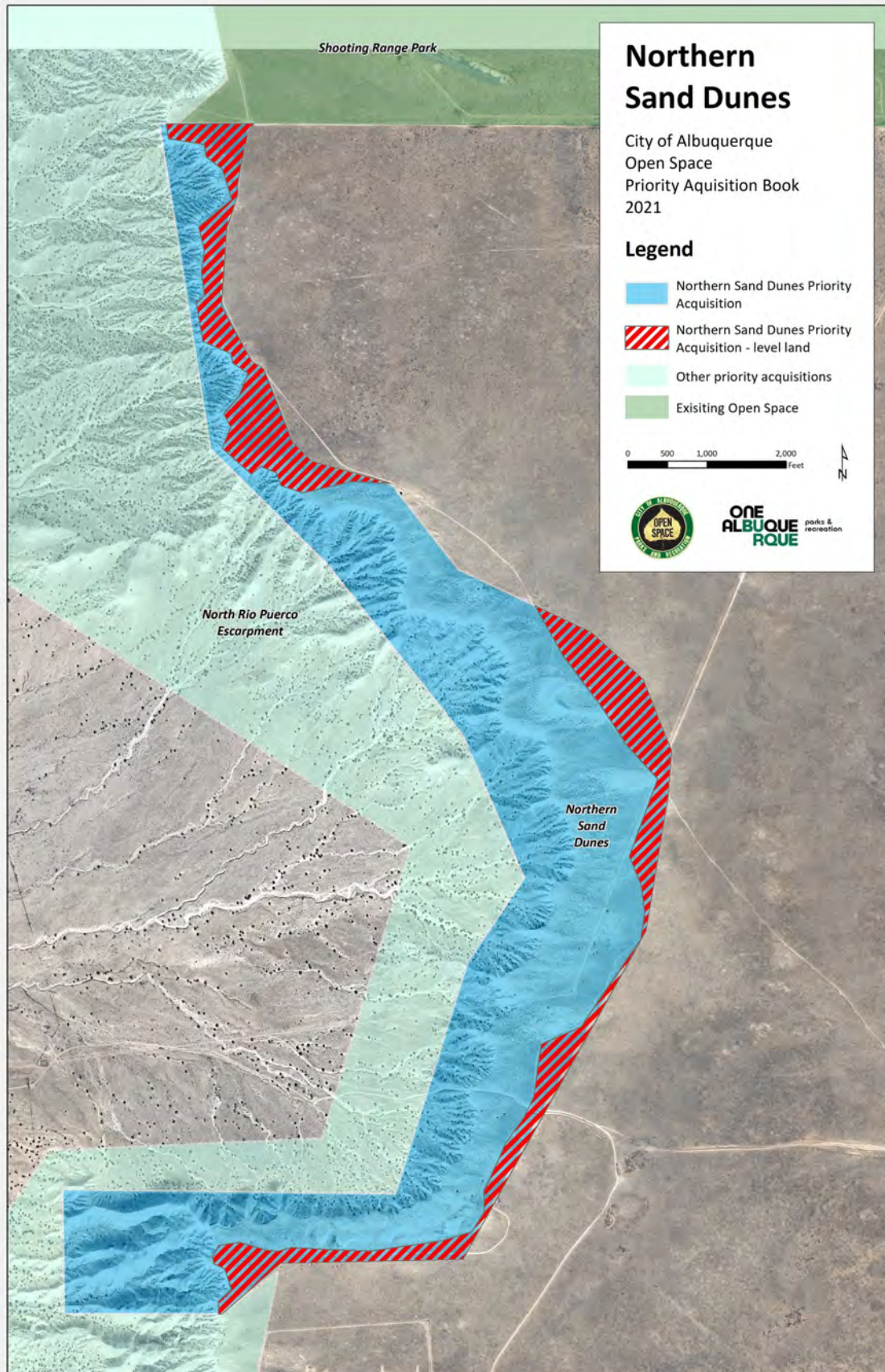
**Functions the property will serve:** The unique and unusual landforms, viewsheds, habitat, endemic plant species, urban edges, and archaeological sites make conservation the most important function of this property. The property will also function to define the urban landscape as Albuquerque develops west towards the dunes. If acquired, the property will be fenced with boundary signage with limited access and parking while allowing minimal trail development. Low impact recreation and environmental education will be significant public benefits.

**Size:** Approximately 640 acres



**Land Status/Methods of Acquisition:** This land is currently administered by Western Albuquerque Land Holdings. The Northern Sand Dunes were identified in the 1988 Albuquerque/Bernalillo County Comprehensive Plan and the 1997 "1/4 Cent for Open Space" gross-receipts tax that was overwhelmingly approved by voters.

Property owners are willing sellers and have cooperated to allow the City to define customized parcel boundaries. The owners have been willing to proceed with a replat of the property to create new parcel boundaries.



# **Appendices**

- I. List of Lower-Priority Acquisition Properties
- II. Acronyms
- III. Relevant Planning Documents
- IV. Major Public Open Space Acquisition Scoresheet
- V. City Council Resolutions



## City of Albuquerque Open Space Lower-Priority Acquisitions\*

AREA	APPROX. ACRES	FUNCTIONS	COMMENTS
Calabacillas Arroyo	150	Conservation Urban Design Recreation	Comprehensive Plan and Facility Plan for Arroyos; areas west of Unser Blvd.

SOUTHWEST QUADRANT			
AREA	APPROX. ACRES	FUNCTIONS	COMMENTS
Private Bosque (Accretion Lands South of I-40)	17 (approx)	Conservation Urban Design	Multiple land-owners; possible conservation easements or management agreements.
South Rio Puerco Escarpment	1,670	Conservation Urban Design Recreation	Comprehensive Plan; multiple ownership. Possible County participation.
Southern Sand Dunes	340	Conservation Urban Design Education	Quarter-cent property; multiple ownership. Possible County participation.

**\*NOTE:** THERE IS NO PRIORITIZATION WITHIN QUADRANTS OF THE CITY. PROPERTIES ARE LISTED IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER.

*Draft List from January 2015.*

## City of Albuquerque Open Space Lower-Priority Acquisitions\*

NORTHEAST QUADRANT			
AREA	APPROX. ACRES	FUNCTIONS	COMMENTS
La Cueva Arroyo	50	Conservation Urban Design Recreation	Comprehensive Plan areas; possible dedication as part of Planned Community.
Pino Arroyo	50	Conservation Urban Design Recreation	Comprehensive Plan areas; possible dedication as part of Planned Community.

SOUTHEAST QUADRANT			
AREA	APPROX. ACRES	FUNCTIONS	COMMENTS
Mesa del Sol—Steep slopes and playa areas	300	Conservation Urban Design Recreation	Comprehensive Plan areas; proposed dedication as part of Planned Community.
Tijeras Arroyo -- West	730	Urban Design Recreation Conservation	Quarter-cent property (partly); no appraisals. Possible land exchanges with State/UNM.

**\*NOTE:** THERE IS NO PRIORITIZATION WITHIN QUADRANTS OF THE CITY. PROPERTIES ARE LISTED IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER.

*Draft List from January 2015.*

## ACRONYMS

- **AMAFCA:** Albuquerque Metropolitan Arroyo Flood Control Authority
- **COA:** City of Albuquerque
- **MPOS:** Major Public Open Space
- **MRGCD:** Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District
- **NGW:** North Geologic Window
- **OSAB:** Open Space Advisory Board
- **OSD:** City of Albuquerque Open Space Division
- **RMP:** Resource Management Plan
- **WALH:** Western Albuquerque Land Holdings



## **RELEVANT PLANNING DOCUMENTS**

- Albuquerque/Bernalillo County Comprehensive Plan - Rank 1 (2017)
- Archaeological Resource Report (1986)
- Facility Plan for Arroyos (1986)
- Major Public Open Space Facility Plan (1999)
- Tijeras Arroyo Bio-Zone Resource Management Plan—Rank III (2014)

## MAJOR PUBLIC OPEN SPACE SCORESHEET

Criteria	Score	Scoring	Notes
<b>Cultural and Natural Resource</b>	<b>Cluster</b>		
Historical and cultural significance	10	(0-10)	Site includes some level of cultural, societal/community, or natural history significance, this includes archaeological sites/resources.
Natural resource preservation	10	(0-10)	Site includes preservation of natural resources that have a potential for future extraction including vegetation (trees), sand, gravel, surface water, ground water, sub-terrain minerals, oil & gas, shale, etc.
Significant wildlife habitats and ecosystems	10	(0-10)	Does the site include significant wildlife habitat or ecosystems that support a diversity of species? If property includes threatened or endangered species it should receive a maximum score.
Protection of the public from natural hazards and other disruptive land uses	10	(0-10)	Does the site protect the public and offer ecological services such as flood protection, noise abatement, dark sky protections, buffers to industrial or other incompatible uses
Riparian ecosystems, wetlands, and arroyos	10	(0-10)	Does the site include streams, wetlands or arroyos which help recharge aquifers, improve water quality and quantity, potentially increase recreation opportunities, and offer aquatic-related habitat for native species?
Viewshed	5	(0 or 5)	Is the property easily visible from a public space <b>off the property</b> such as a public road, public trail, public lands or other designated publicly accessible areas?
Scenic and respite values	5	(0 or 5)	When <b>on the property</b> , does it offer scenic value and relief from the urban environment for the visitor? For example, is there some level of visual and auditory relief from the urban environment?
Unique landforms	5	(0 or 5)	mountains, escarpment etc.
<i>Section subtotal</i>	<b>65</b>		<b>65 total possible points</b>
	<b>x0.40</b>		
<b>Cluster total</b>	<b>26</b>		<b>26 total possible cluster points</b>
<b>Recreation and Education</b>	<b>Cluster</b>		
public	10	(0-10)	opportunities by providing potential for low-impact outdoor recreation (e.g. running,
public	10	(0-10)	opportunities are controlled/programmatic or completely open?
<i>Section subtotal</i>	<b>20</b>		<b>20 total possible points</b>
	<b>x0.30</b>		
<b>Cluster total</b>	<b>6</b>		<b>6 total possible cluster points</b>
<b>Inclusion and Equity</b>	<b>Cluster weight=30</b>		
Provides equitable resource, recreational and educational opportunities for the public.	10	(0-10)	Does the intended access to the site and use of the site offer inclusive and equitable opportunities for resource protection, public recreation and/or public education? If it is not accessible by public transportation, what is the potential to make it accessible? Does it have the potential to be accessible for people with disabilities?
Low-income areas	10	(0-10)	Site is located within a low-income and/or underserved area of the City of Albuquerque or Bernalillo County.
Ease of public access	10	(0-10)	Site is located in an area that is easily accessible by the public using public transportation.
<i>Section subtotal</i>	<b>30</b>		<b>30 total possible points</b>
	<b>x0.30</b>		
<b>Cluster total</b>	<b>9</b>		<b>9 total possible cluster points</b>
<b>Funding, Readiness and Ongoing Management</b>	<b>Cluster weight=30</b>		
Municipal, county, state, federal or other organization/business assistance with acquisition	10	(0-10)	Joint interest in protecting the site from other entities including funding for acquisition, funding for management, or other direct or indirect support for costs associated with the acquisition of the site? If so, at what level?
Management maintenance resource availability	10	(0-10)	Is there any dedicated funding or partnership agreements for the ongoing maintenance of the site? Funding for maintenance DOES NOT include regular maintenance budgets for the City.
Project readiness and landowner willingness	5	(0 or 5)	Is the project ready to implement with a willing landowner under the terms of purchase offered by the City?
Swap availability	5	(0 or 5)	Is there an ability to swap the site for other unwanted City land?

Capital funds availability	5	(0 or 5)	Are there enough capital funds available to purchase the site in its entirety or provide enough to match other existing codified funding?
Legal and practical access	5	(0 or 5)	Does the site have legal and practical access?
<i>Section subtotal</i>	40		40 total possible points
	<b>x0.30</b>		
<b>Cluster total</b>	<b>12</b>		12 total possible cluster points
<b>Other Considerations</b>	<b>Cluster weight=30</b>		
Degree of development pressure	10	(0-10)	Is the site being planned for imminent development? What is the degree of pressure from development? Development could include residential, industrial, commercial, extractive/mining, other incompatible uses, etc.
Proximity to or connections with existing MPOS or other public lands	10	(0-10)	Is the site adjacent to other MPOS or other public lands? Does it contribute significantly to the functions and public benefit of the MPOS or other public lands?
Conservation easement potential	5	(0 or 5)	Is the landowner interested in conservation easements as an option for preservation? Does a conservation easement conflict with the City's goals for the site?
Partial use or access	5	(0 or 5)	Would only purchasing a portion of the site or acquisition of an access or recreation easement accomplish the same goals as full site acquisition?
BernCo Green Print Score	5	(0 or 5)	Property or portion of the property has been rated as "High" or "Very High" on the Bernalillo County Greenprint
<i>Section subtotal</i>	35		35 total possible points
	<b>x0.20</b>		
<b>Cluster total</b>	<b>7</b>		7 total possible cluster points
<b>Total Cluster Score</b>	<b>60</b>		This is the score to be used in rating and comparing site to other MPOS sites for acquisition by the City. Maximum score is 60.



# CITY of ALBUQUERQUE

## TWENTY FOURTH COUNCIL

COUNCIL BILL NO. R-21-134 ENACTMENT NO. R-2021-011

SPONSORED BY: Cynthia D. Borrego and Lan Sena, by request

1 RESOLUTION  
2 ESTABLISHING A PRIORITIES LIST FOR THE CITY OF ALBUQUERQUE'S  
3 FUTURE OPEN SPACE LAND ACQUISITIONS; IDENTIFYING IMMEDIATE  
4 PRIORITIES AND SPECIAL PROVISIONS FOR CERTAIN PROPERTIES.

5 WHEREAS, the City of Albuquerque Open Space Division of the Parks and  
6 Recreation Department manages an inventory of Open Space Lands and has  
7 established a list of additional lands that are desired as additions to the City's  
8 open space network; and

9 WHEREAS, the City Council is responsible for ensuring that public funds  
10 earmarked for open space acquisition are expended only on purchases that  
11 best promote the open space needs and interests of the residents; and

12 WHEREAS, City Ordinance Section 2-6-16(B)(2)(b) requires that the Open  
13 Space Advisory Board recommend to the City Council for its approval a list of  
14 priority projects suitable for acquisition through purchase, exchange, or any  
15 suitable mechanism, for purposes of "major public open space".

16 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL, THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF  
17 ALBUQUERQUE:

18 R-2016-12 is hereby amended to read as follows:

19 Section 1. Open Space Priority List. The following updated list is  
20 approved and adopted as the official open space acquisition priorities for the  
21 City:

- 22 Calabacillas Pueblo II;  
23 Cerro Colorado Volcano;  
24 Diamond Rock/Four Hills;  
25 Northern Geologic Window (North 1/3);  
26 Northern Sand Dunes;

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- 1 North Rio Puerco Escarpment;
- 2 Poole Property;
- 3 Volcano Cliffs Sector Plan Development Plan Parcels (Boca Negra Arroyo
- 4 Middle Branch and La Cuentista);
- 5 Tijeras Arroyo Biological Zone;
- 6 Volcano Heights (State Land Office parcel).
- 7 The order of the above list is not intended to connote an order of importance,
- 8 but only to list all of these properties as priorities for the City.

9 Section 2. Poole Property acquisition. The council hereby approves up to  
 10 \$2,200,000 for the purchase of the Poole Property, from the following City  
 11 capital sources:

12	2% for Open Space 2019 GO Bonds	\$540,000
13	Impact Fees – Parks NW	\$550,000
14	Open Space Trust Fund Interest	\$810,000
15	Councilor Set-a-sides	\$250,000
16	Council Services Gen. Fund transfer	\$50,000

17 The funds authorized by this section may not be used to acquire any Open  
 18 Space other than the Poole Property.

19 Section 3. That the following amounts are hereby appropriated to the  
 20 following programs for Fiscal Year 2021:

21 **GENERAL FUND - 110**

22 **Council Services**

23	Transfer to Capital Acquisition Fund (305)	\$50,000
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24 **OPEN SPACE TRUST FUND - 850**

25 **Parks**

26	Transfer to Capital Acquisition Fund (305)	\$375,000
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27 Section 4. The following appropriations and designations are hereby  
 28 made to the Capital Program to the specific funds and projects as indicated  
 29 below for Fiscal Year 2021:

30	<u>Department/Fund</u>	<u>Source</u>	<u>Amount</u>
31	Parks & Recreation/Fund 305		
32	Open Space Trust Fund Interest	Transfer from 110/850	\$425,000


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1       Section 5.   Special Procedures for the Northern Sand Dunes & North Rio  
2   Puerco Escarpment. The properties in unincorporated Bernalillo County  
3   known as the Northern Sand Dunes and North Rio Puerco Escarpment, which  
4   were included in the priority list through R-16-12, remain Open Space priorities  
5   to the City. The City shall support and cooperate with Bernalillo County in the  
6   event the County pursues acquisition of the property, however, no City funds  
7   shall be used for any acquisition or negotiation activity without prior approval  
8   of the City Council.

9       Section 6.   Prioritizing Volcano Cliffs Sector Development Plan Parcels  
10   the Northern Geological Window (North 1/3), and the Poole Property. The  
11   Volcano Cliffs Sector Development Plan Parcels (La Cuentista and the Boca  
12   Negra Arroyo Middle Branch) and the Northern Geologic Window (North 1/3)  
13   are situated adjacent to the Petroglyph National Monument in an area of  
14   present or near-term growth pressure, have provided unauthorized access to  
15   the Monument, and contain unique land forms, view sheds, natural and  
16   cultural resources, and critical wildlife habitat that would be threatened by  
17   growth. If preserved as municipal open space, these parcels could contribute  
18   to the open space and cultural resources available at the monument. The  
19   Poole Property faces even more intense development pressure and the  
20   property offers invaluable environmental and conservation benefits to the  
21   public. The City shall pursue the properties identified in Section 5 as its most  
22   immediate open space acquisition priority through fee purchase, acquisition  
23   of easements, negative easements, licenses, leases, or any other reasonable  
24   mechanism or any combination thereof that allows for the preservation and  
25   enjoyment of this open space for the general public.

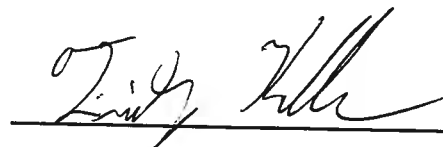


1 PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 1<sup>st</sup> DAY OF March, 2021  
2 BY A VOTE OF: 9 FOR 0 AGAINST.  
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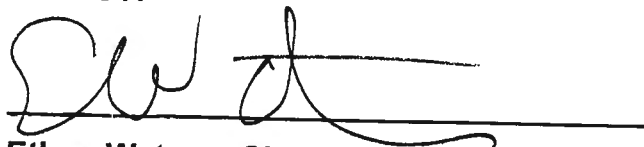
8   
9 Cynthia D. Borrego, President  
10 City Council  
11  
12

13  
14 APPROVED THIS 9 DAY OF March, 2021  
15  
16

17 Bill No. R-21-134  
18

19  
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21   
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23 Timothy M. Keller, Mayor  
24 City of Albuquerque  
25  
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27

28 ATTEST:

29   
30  
31 Ethan Watson, City Clerk  
32  
33  
34

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# City of Albuquerque

## Office of the City Clerk

Richard J. Berry, Mayor

Natalie Y. Howard, City Clerk

### Interoffice Memorandum

April 22, 2016

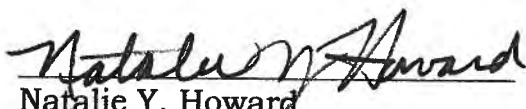
To: CITY COUNCIL

From: NATALIE Y. HOWARD, CITY CLERK

Subject: BILL NO. C/S R-16-12 ENACTMENT NO. R-2016-024

I hereby certify that on April 22, 2016, the Office of the City Clerk received Bill No. C/S R-16-12 as signed by the president of the City Council, Dan Lewis. Enactment No. R-2016-024 was passed at the April 4, 2016 City Council meeting. Mayor Berry did not sign the approved Resolution within the 10 days allowed for his signature and did not exercise his veto power. Pursuant to the Albuquerque City Charter Article XI, Section 3, this Resolution is in full effect without Mayor's approval or signature. This memorandum shall be placed in the permanent file for Bill No. R-16-12.

Sincerely,

  
Natalie Y. Howard  
City Clerk

# CITY of ALBUQUERQUE

## TWENTY-SECOND COUNCIL

COUNCIL BILL NO. C/S R-16-12

ENACTMENT NO.

R-2016-024

SPONSORED BY: Isaac Benton

### RESOLUTION

ESTABLISHING A PRIORITIES LIST FOR THE CITY OF ALBUQUERQUE'S  
FUTURE OPEN SPACE LAND ACQUISITIONS; IDENTIFYING IMMEDIATE  
PRIORITIES AND SPECIAL PROVISIONS FOR CERTAIN PROPERTIES.

WHEREAS, the City of Albuquerque Open Space Division of the Parks and  
Recreation Department manages an inventory of Open Space Lands and has  
established a list of additional lands that are desired as additions to the City's  
open space network; and

WHEREAS, the City Council is responsible for ensuring that public funds  
earmarked for open space land acquisition are expended only on purchases  
that best promote the open space needs and interests of the residents; and

WHEREAS, the City Council does not presently have a mechanism to  
review proposed open space acquisitions until after significant resources are  
expended in furtherance of acquiring the properties; and

WHEREAS, notwithstanding that the Council presently lacks a mechanism  
through which it can give timely policy guidance in advance, the City Council  
must nonetheless ultimately approve any specific open space acquisitions;  
and

WHEREAS, since the Council is ultimately tasked with approving proposed  
acquisitions, City Resources would be better preserved by implementing a  
mechanism for the City Council to review open space acquisition priorities in  
advance of any steps in furtherance of specific acquisitions; and

WHEREAS, certain properties listed as priorities for acquisition by  
purchase as of December 2015, such as the Northern Sand Dunes and the  
North Rio Puerco Escarpment are located in unincorporated Bernalillo County  
some distance from the present urban fringe of the City; and

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1       WHEREAS, Bernalillo County is likely better situated to preserve open  
2 space interests in the area of the Northern Sand Dunes and the North Rio  
3 Puerco Escarpment through purchase or negotiated dedication as part of  
4 development agreements with the private owners as growth occurs in those  
5 areas of the County; and

6       WHEREAS, the City should work more closely with the County as it relates  
7 to open space acquisitions that may serve mutual benefits in unincorporated  
8 areas before pursuing direct acquisition on its own; and

9       WHEREAS, the Petroglyph National Monument is one of the region's most  
10 important cultural and open space assets and there are properties near the  
11 monument that are situated in the more near term path of urban growth, which  
12 if acquired as open space, present opportunities to build upon and further  
13 protect the monument's resources.

14 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL, THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF  
15 ALBUQUERQUE:

16       Section 1. Open Space Priority List. After reviewing the list of priority  
17 lands for acquisition as recommended by the Open Space Division and the  
18 Open Space Advisory Board as of December, 2015, the following refined list is  
19 approved and adopted as the official open space acquisition priorities for the  
20 City:

21               Cerro Colorado Volcano,  
22               Northern Geologic Window (North 1/3),  
23               Northern Sand Dunes,  
24               North Rio Puerco Escarpment,  
25               Volcano Cliffs Sector Development Plan Parcels:  
26                       Boca Negra Arroyo Middle Branch; and  
27                       La Cuentista,  
28               Tijeras Arroyo Biological Zone, and  
29               Volcano Heights (State Land Office Parcel).

30       The order of the above list is not intended to connote an order of  
31 importance, but only to list all of these properties as priorities for the City.

32       Section 2. Special Provisions for the Northern Sand Dunes & North Rio  
33 Puerco Escarpment. The properties in unincorporated Bernalillo County

1 known as the Northern Sand Dunes and the North Rio Puerco Escarpment,  
2 which were recommended for acquisition by the Open Space Division and the  
3 Open Space Advisory Board as of the December 2015 priority list, remain open  
4 space priorities to the City. The City shall support and cooperate with  
5 Bernalillo County in the event the County pursues acquisition of the property,  
6 however, no City funds shall be used for any acquisition or negotiation activity  
7 without prior approval of the City Council.

8 **Section 3. Prioritizing Volcano Cliffs Sector Development Plan Parcels and**  
9 **the Northern Geologic Window (North 1/3).** The Volcano Cliffs Sector  
10 Development Plan Parcels (La Cuentista and the and Boca Negra Arroyo  
11 Middle Branch) and the Northern Geologic Window (North 1/3) are situated  
12 adjacent to the Petroglyph National Monument in an area of present or near  
13 term growth pressure, have provided unauthorized access to the Monument,  
14 and contain unique land forms, view sheds, natural and cultural resources,  
15 and critical wildlife habitat that would be threatened by growth. If preserved as  
16 municipal open space, these parcels could contribute to the open space and  
17 cultural resources available at the monument.

18 (A) **Acquisition.** The City shall pursue the properties identified in  
19 Section 3 as its most immediate open space acquisition priority through fee  
20 purchase, acquisition of easements, negative easements, licenses, leases, or  
21 any other reasonable mechanism or any combination thereof that allows for  
22 the preservation and enjoyment of this open space for the general public.

23 (B) **Appropriation.** The following appropriations are hereby made  
24 and/or changed and that transfers of revenues to the specific projects are  
25 made as indicated.

		Increase
<u>Department</u>	<u>Source</u>	<u>(Decrease)</u>
<u>Parks and Recreation</u>		
Open Space Land Acquisition		
Fencing & Protection	2011 GO Bond	(142,514)
Open Space Land Acquisition,		
Fencing and Protection	2013 GO Bond	(750,000)

1 **Volcano Cliffs Sector Development Plan Parcels and North Geologic Window**  
2 **(North 1/3)**

3 <b>Acquisition</b>	<b>2011 GO Bond</b>	<b>142,514</b>
4	<b>2013 GO Bond</b>	<b>750,000</b>

5 **Project Scope: To purchase land identified as the “Boca Negra Arroyo**  
6 **Middle Branch,” and/or the “Northern Geologic Window (North 1/3),” and/or**  
7 **the “La Cuentista Property” for Open Space, including surveying, platting,**  
8 **building fences, purchase equipment required for the protection of Open**  
9 **Space, install signs and make associated improvements.**

10 **Section 4. Progress Reporting. The City of Albuquerque Real Property**  
11 **Division shall upon request of the City Council provide oral quarterly reports**  
12 **to the City Council on the progress of acquiring properties identified in**  
13 **Section 3.**

14 **Section 5. Current Acquisition Activities. With the exception of those**  
15 **properties identified in Section 2, above, adoption of this Resolution shall not**  
16 **impact Open Space Division land acquisition activities which are currently**  
17 **ongoing based on assessments of known development pressure, cost and**  
18 **recreational value of those properties by the Open Space Division and Open**  
19 **Space Advisory Board.**

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1 PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 4<sup>th</sup> DAY OF April, 2016  
2 BY A VOTE OF: 8 FOR 0 AGAINST.  
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5 Excused: Sanchez  
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9 Dan Lewis, President  
10 City Council  
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14 APPROVED THIS \_\_\_\_\_ DAY OF \_\_\_\_\_, 2016  
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18 Bill No. C/S R-16-12  
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22 Richard J. Berry, Mayor  
23 City of Albuquerque  
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26 ATTEST:  
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29 Natalie Y. Howard, City Clerk  
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