

CITY of ALBUQUERQUE

TWENTY FIFTH COUNCIL

COUNCIL BILL NO. R-22-8 ENACTMENT NO. R-2022-019

SPONSORED BY: Isaac Benton

1 RESOLUTION
2 ENABLING AND DIRECTING THE PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
3 TO REVIEW AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF
4 THE OPEN SPACE TRUST FUND, REVIEW AND RECOMMEND UPDATES TO
5 SECTIONS ONE AND TWO OF THE RANK 2 ALBUQUERQUE MAJOR PUBLIC
6 OPEN SPACE FACILITY PLAN, AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR
7 INCREASING EQUITABLE ACCESS TO PARKS, OPEN SPACE, AND TO
8 PROVIDE OUTDOOR ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS.

9 WHEREAS, parks and open space are essential to a community's physical,
10 mental, spiritual, and economic health, as well as providing community-
11 building, environmental, and education benefits; and

12 WHEREAS, the City of Albuquerque Parks and Recreation Department
13 administers, through the Open Space Division, one of the nation's best city
14 open space programs; and

15 WHEREAS, it is important that the City continue to devote resources to the
16 acquisition and protection of Major Public Open Space (MPOS) in order to
17 protect land with valuable natural and cultural resources for the benefit of
18 present and future generations, and to act to proactively protect land ahead of
19 development pressure; and

20 WHEREAS, opportunities to improve the return on investment the Open
21 Space Trust Fund (Fund) need to be investigated with respect to state law and
22 city policy; and

23 WHEREAS, the structure and policy guiding the administration of the Fund
24 in the future acquisition and management of MPOS needs to be studied and
25 clarified; and

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1 WHEREAS, the role of the Open Space Advisory Board is to: advise the
2 EPC, the Mayor and the City Council as to an appropriate city open space
3 program; advise the City Treasurer on administration and management of the
4 Fund; make annual recommendations to EPC, the Mayor, and City Council on
5 updating the program including land and capital improvements; review open
6 space plans with citizen interest groups and advise the Mayor and City
7 Council on new plans and plan amendments; assist in negotiations for land
8 acquisitions upon request; make expenditure recommendations that conform
9 with state and city policy and account for all funding sources available to
10 OSAB; approve the sale or lease of certain interests in open space exchange
11 lands; and

12 WHEREAS, the definition of MPOS in the 1999 MPOS Facility Plan is
13 currently inconsistent with the definition in the Albuquerque/Bernalillo County
14 Comprehensive Plan (“Comprehensive Plan”); and

15 WHEREAS, environmental education and recreational programs are needed
16 with a specific focus on promoting equitable access to and understanding of
17 the natural environment within an urban setting.

18 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL, THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF
19 ALBUQUERQUE:

20 Section 1. Affirming Major Public Open Space Definition. The definition of
21 Major Public Open Space, as derived from the Albuquerque/Bernalillo County
22 Comprehensive Plan, shall be: an integrated network of land and water that
23 has been or shall be acquired, developed, used, and maintained to retain their
24 natural character to benefit people throughout the metropolitan area by
25 conserving resources related to the natural environment, providing
26 opportunities for outdoor education and passive recreation, or defining the
27 boundaries of the urban environment. The MPOS network is City-owned Open
28 Space and is part of a larger system of public open spaces, trails, and parks
29 managed by City, County, State, and Federal agencies.

30 Section 2. Fiscal Resources for Major Public Open Space Acquisition and
31 Management. The Parks and Recreation Department shall annually prepare a
32 report to City Council on all land acquisitions (including price and source(s) of
33 funding) and status of properties listed on the priority acquisition list

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1 (including priority acquisitions, if any, purchased by other buyers) for the
2 previous fiscal year, as part of Council’s annual budget appropriation process.
3 Consistent with the Facility Plan, the Mayor shall convene a committee to
4 assess and make recommendations regarding the administration of the Open
5 Space Trust Fund, with respect to the City Ordinances, state law, and
6 investment policy and practices that govern the Fund and the use of the Fund.
7 The committee shall evaluate various proposals to sustainably support the
8 Fund and generate capacity for the operations, maintenance and land
9 acquisition of MPOS. Previous legislative proposals to expand the investment
10 authority of local governments shall be considered. This committee shall be
11 comprised of the Chief Administrative Officer or designee, and two
12 representatives from the Parks and Recreation Department, one representative
13 from the Department of Finance and Administration/Treasury, two
14 representatives from the Open Space Advisory Board (OSAB), and two
15 representatives from Council Services. The committee shall consult the State
16 Investment Officer, Bernalillo County, and the Office of Equity and Inclusion,
17 as needed. The Mayor shall appoint one of the two representatives from the
18 OSAB to chair the committee. The Parks and Recreation Department shall
19 provide administrative support to the committee. The committee shall provide
20 a report with recommendations to the Mayor and Council within 90 days of the
21 conclusion of the 2023 Legislative Session.

22 Section 3. Equitable Access to Parks and Open Space Programs. The
23 Parks and Recreation Department shall work with the Office of Equity and
24 Inclusion to make recommendations to City Council, including identifying
25 operational funding needs, for environmental education and recreational
26 programs that will increase opportunities for socially equitable access and
27 enjoyment of MPOS and other parks, trails, and green spaces by all
28 communities within the city. There is an opportunity to create natural parks
29 and access points adjacent to MPOS to allow for programming and improved
30 access.

31 Section 4. Ordinance Review. The Parks and Recreation Department and
32 the Open Space Advisory Board shall review and identify the contradictions
33 between Sections 1 and 2 of the 1999 MPOS Facility Plan, City Ordinances O-

1 16-13 (Enactment O-2016-008) and O-15-48 (Enactment O-2015-028), and
2 recommend changes to resolve contradictions. The recommendations shall be
3 reviewed by the OSAB and reported to the Administration and Council no later
4 than December 31st, 2022.

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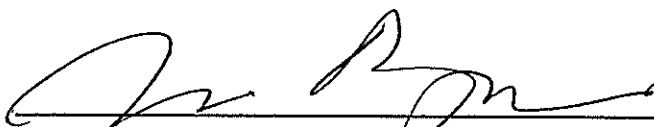
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1 PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 4th DAY OF April, 2022
2 BY A VOTE OF: 9 FOR 0 AGAINST.

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Isaac Benton, President
City Council

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14 APPROVED THIS 14 DAY OF April, 2022

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Bill No. R-22-8

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Timothy M. Keller, Mayor
City of Albuquerque

28 ATTEST:
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31 Ethan Watson, City Clerk

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