

OPEN SPACE

newsletter



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

Volume 23, Issue 2, July –Sept 2021

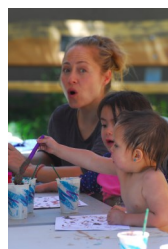
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International Mud Day 2021 was a Success!!

Neighbors, friends, and families joined the Open Space Division for a day to play in the mud. It was a glorious sight to see the smiling faces. Listening to parents and children talk about how happy they were to be immersed in a unique experience such as “International Mud Day” made it a huge success.

A special “Thanks” to the Open Space Alliance for their continued support. An additional “Thanks” to the volunteers and staff who participated in making this event run smoothly. It was a great time and we look forward to creating a bigger event in 2022. We hope to see you all there!



Want to go paperless and full color?

E-Mail Dionne Epps at depps@cabq.gov

www.cabq.gov/openspace

Follow the Open Space

Visitor Center online!



OSD Education Programming

The Open Space Division is having a wonderful summer of exploration and discovery offering in-person programming for youth of all ages!

Public Programs

(1)

Family Nature Club, all ages

Families join an Open Space Educator on a hike through the bosque and down to the river where they engage in hands-on learning, listen to natural history fun facts, enjoy storytelling, and seek out wildlife.

Saturdays, 10:00am-12:00pm

May 22, June 19, July 17, August 14, September 18



Photo Credits: Education Staff

(2)

Explorer Camp, ages 6-10

This program for elementary-aged youth takes place outdoors exploring nature at the Open Space Visitor Center hiking in the cottonwood forest, along the river, and in the native plant gardens. Program includes hands-on science, literacy, and art activities.

Wednesday – Friday, 9am-12pm

6/09-6/11 Powerful Pollinators

6/23-6/25 Geology Rocks!



Photo Credits: Education Staff

(3)

Outdoor Field School, ages 11-14

This program is for middle-school youth fosters essential skills used by wildlife biologists, climatologists, foresters using real scientific equipment to observe and measure the different habitat types of the middle Rio Grande riparian ecosystem.

Wednesday – Friday, 9am-12pm

6/16 – 06/18 Bosque Habitats



Photo Credits: Education Staff

Community Outreach Programs

(4)

Nature in Your Neighborhood, ages 6-9

Serving 13 community centers this summer, youth participate in hands-on activities, nature-based games, and outdoor exploration aimed at connecting youth to their natural world and help them discover that nature is all around them, even in their own neighborhood. Participants learn to use binoculars and magnifying lenses, practice their powers of observation, and document their discoveries. Varies dates in June, July, and August, 9:30am-11:30am



Photo Credits: Education Staff

Welcome New Open Space Employees

Lawrence Baldonado, Maintenance Crew Supervisor

Lawrence has been working with the City for 18 years and prior to joining the Open Space Division was in charge of taking care of Veterans Memorial Park on Louisiana and Gibson. During his tenure there he enjoyed meeting and talking with the veterans who served our country. Lawrence also worked at the City greenhouse and has experience with paved bike trails and park construction. When not at work Lawrence enjoys farming, riding horses and spending time with his family.

Alyssa O'Brien, Project Coordinator

Alyssa is originally from Wisconsin and is new to Albuquerque. She received her Bachelor's Degree in Environmental Studies from Beloit College and has worked as an environmental consultant for several years in the Midwest, managing energy efficiency programs. Alyssa has also worked for the Houston Zoo where she worked as a horticulturist, greenhouse manager, and browse coordinator. Prior to joining Open Space, Alyssa worked with the Butterfly Pavilion in Westminster, CO as their horticulture manager. There she was able to work on a variety of open space and native restoration projects which encouraged her to pursue a position at Open Space. She looks forward to tackling the exciting challenges at Open Space and exploring New Mexico.

Frank Archuleta, Heavy Equipment Operator

Frank has been working for the City for 12 years and prior to joining Open Space he was worked for the Solid Waste Department as a driver on commercial and residential routes. Frank enjoys spending time in nature, especially hunting and fishing. Frank was drawn to Open Space to help protect the Bosque and the Sandias. Frank looks forward to helping protect wildlife habitat and learning more about the different Open Space areas that he gets to work in.

Antonio Gonzales, Equipment Operator

Antonio has been with the City for 8 years, all of which have been in the Parks and Recreation Department. During this time he has worked to maintain City softball fields and was in charge of a mowing crew. Antonio became interested in nature in the fourth grade when he was able to attend a forestry camp. Now he is looking forward to giving back to the community and making a difference for everyone by helping to protect the Open Space areas that he works in. He also has an interest in archaeology and looks forward to learning more about it through his work at Open Space. When not at work, Antonio enjoys playing video games, using photo shop and he recently bought a DJ system.

Visitor Services and Youth Corp

Open Space welcomes back our Youth Conservation Corp for the 7th summer. Over the summers, the crew has been an integral part of maintaining the Bosque. The summer program started out as the main crew for maintaining the crusher fine path known as the “Rio Del Norte” trail, but has since expanded and now encompasses projects all over Open Space. Throughout the summer, the crew will be mitigating invasive species in select areas, reducing fuel loads in the Bosque to lessen the impact of fires, as well as trail and erosion maintenance in the Bosque and other Open Space locations.

This summer, the crew has been helping out partner agencies, and learning about other conservation paths. Some of these projects include collaborating with Bosque Ecosystem monitoring Program (B.E.M.P) and participating in rapid assessment field monitoring, which included collecting from arthropod traps in the agricultural fields and plant identification to better understand the ecosystem.

Top left to right) Elke Peterson, Oswaldo Medina, Isaiah Chavez, Roman Chavez, Claire Strickland, Katia Chavez, Melachi Sanchez
(Bottom) Emiliano Swanson.



Photo Credit: Kyle Bality

Visitor Services Summer Series Hikes and concerts are back!

Be sure to check the Open Space website for the list of upcoming hikes!

Some remaining *hikes* to hop onto are;

Juan Tomas - Sunday, July 11th

Bosque Ponds - Sunday, July 25th

Elena Gallegos - Sunday, August 8th



Photo Credit: Bill Pentler

First Summer Series Concert : The Manderings, Saturday, September 4, 2021 at The Elena Gallegos Double Shelter Please email Kyle Bality at kbality@cabq.gov for registration in regards to the above events.

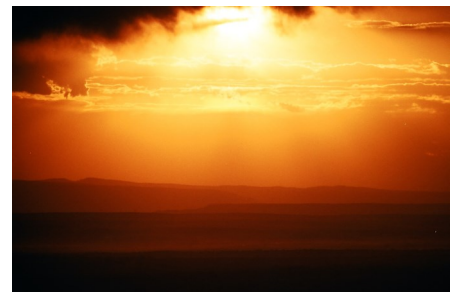


Photo Credit: Bill Pentler

Adopt an Open Space



As an extension of the Trail Watch Volunteer program, the Adopt-an-Open Space program was formed to concentrate stewardship in a targeted area. TWV duties are applied, but adopters also agree to organize at least one group project per year. Some areas may require more scheduled projects within a year. In the foothills, individuals or groups can adopt trails and assist with the essential maintenance of these visitor corridors. In the Bosque, groups of 10 or more can adopt restoration areas and help with non-native plant control and trail

maintenance. At the City's expense, a sign is installed in the adopted area recognizing the adopters efforts.

To inquire about adopting an OSD trail or area please contact Dionne L. Epps at (505) 768-4960

(New Number) or depps@cabq.gov

Trail Watch Trainings

Trail Watch Volunteers are the foundation of the volunteer program. Trail Watch is ideal for those volunteers who enjoy using the trails. These volunteers patrol areas of their choice and record observations, report problems and needs, and educate the public on proper resource use.

Saturday, July 24, 2021 at 9:00am– 12:00pm

Saturday, September 18, 2021 at 9:00am –12:00pm

OSVC Front Desk Training

OSVC Front desk volunteers are the first impression of the Open Space Visitor Center. Of course the task of answering the phones are incorporated in the two hour shift duties, but greeting visitors who come from all over the world in hope of finding a great hiking trail is a part of those duties. If you are not familiar with the History of Open Space Division your training will be helpful. If you are looking for a beautiful place to spend a few hours a week greeting people, try one of the upcoming trainings.

July 29, 2021 at 2:00 PM-3:00 PM

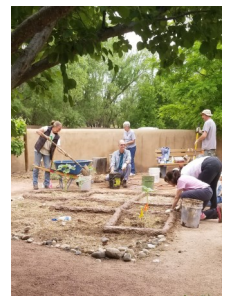
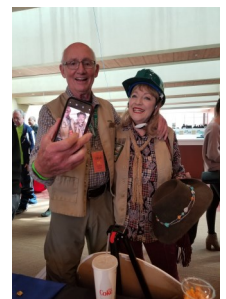
Traditional Garden Volunteers Needed

If you enjoy submerging your hands in soil to connect with mother nature, then we have a place for you. Come spend a little time in our gardens to assist in cultivating and preserving some of the Traditional / Original ways of this land. We would love to have you come join us at one of our meetings. They are held the **2nd Thursday** of every month at 9:00am.

Thursday, August 12, 2021

Thursday, September 9, 2021

To Register for any of the above programs, please call (505) 768-4960 .



BOSQUE WILD: GUIDED NATURE WALK

By Richard Shackley

Late in 2008, under the watchful eye of Jodi Hedderig, former Open Space Visitor Center manager, the first guests on the Bosque Wild: Guided Nature Walk set out to experience the wonders of the Bosque. Elsa Bumstead, Biologist, naturalist, and avid birder was the first guide, followed by Verne Huser, and Charlie Wood. These first guides passed on their binoculars, walking sticks, and a treasure-trove of information to the current group of dedicated Nature Guides.



Gazing Into the Bosque

Photo by Liam DeBonis at the Daily Lobo

The Middle Rio Grande Valley is a natural wonder that has something different to offer any time of day, and every season of the year. Along the banks of the Rio Grande, the fourth longest river in the United States, lives one of the largest riparian cottonwood forests in the world. More commonly known as “The Bosque”, this extraordinary gem offers a quiet refuge away from the fast-paced world of Albuquerque city life.

Plant life abounds along the Rio Grande. The river is the foundation but the Rio Grande Cottonwood is the anchor of the Bosque, and other trees and shrubs live scattered throughout the landscape. There is a host of different species like Russian Olive, Saltcedar (Tamarix), Siberian Elm, Russian Thistle (Tumbleweed), native Goodding, Peachleaf willows, New Mexico olive, Coyote Willow, False Indigo, and Seepwillow. There are various grasses and aquatic plants that provide a seasonally ever-changing habitat and hideaway for the many critters found throughout the Bosque ecosystem.

Albuquerque’s Bosque is a home for up to 250 species of birds from the majestic Sandhill Crane (pictured), to the mini powerhouse Black-Chinned Hummingbird. The Bosque harbors a wide variety of mammals: the reclusive Porcupine (pictured), often observed slumbering in the Cottonwood canopy; the skittish Coyote; and even an occasional beaver leaving trailing wakes on the River’s surface. The list of critters that make the Bosque their home is much too long to be included in this short article. You’ll just have to explore this riverine forest yourself to see the wide variety of flora and fauna...so mark your calendars and join your fellow explorers on the Bosque Wild: Guided Nature Walk.



Sandhill Cranes

Stock photo



Porcupine

Photo by Colleen Hartwell (Shackley)

Let Brian Anderson, Bob Muller, Paul Ordogne, Richard Shackley, Colleen Shackley, Claude Vallieres, Verma Villegas, and Sarah Wallace, your Bosque Wild Guides, show you the wonders of the Rio Grande Bosque.

The Bosque Wild: Guided Nature Walk leaves the Open Space Visitor Center at 8am on the first Sunday of every month. For those of you who have yet to visit the Visitor Center, it is located at 6500 Coors NW, Albuquerque, NM 87120, just south of Paseo Del Norte. Be prepared to explore the Bosque for 2 to 3 hours over moderately strenuous trails but with frequent stops along the way to observe the sights and sounds. Please leave your pets at home. They can often be a distraction and can scare the forest critters away.

To check when the next Bosque Walk has been scheduled, please click on the link below, or copy the link to your browser.

<http://www.cabq.gov/parksandrecreation/open-space/events>

To make reservations for the walk, call 505-768-4960.

On February 2nd, Liam DeBonis, a reporter from the Daily Lobo joined us on the Bosque Walk and then authored a great article about his experience. Just click on the link below, or copy the link to your browser to view the article.

<https://www.dailylobo.com/article/2020/02/bosque-nature-walk-highlights-importance-of-cottonwoods>

A special thanks to Dionne Epps, Bill Pentler, Charlie Wood, Paul Ordogne, Claude Vallieres and Sarah Wallace for providing information and editing skills on this article.

Upcoming Bosque Wild Hikes:

Sunday, August 1, 2021

Sunday, September 5, 2021

- Although we love them *No Pets* Please keep at home
- Bosque Wild hike is 3 miles, approximately 2.5 hours
- Hike is Moderately strenuous
- Wear appropriate foot wear

All hikes begin at 8:00am at the Open Space Visitor Center, 6500 Coors BLVD, Albuquerque, NM 87120. Please call (505) 768-4950 to register for upcoming hikes.

Open Space Visitor Center News

City of Albuquerque Parks & Recreation Department OPEN SPACE VISITOR CENTER presents

Summer Hours at the Open Space Visitor Center

WHO: The General Public

WHAT: Open Space Visitor Center Extended Summer Hours of Operations

WHERE: Open Space Visitor Center | 6500 Coors Blvd NW at the end of Bosque Meadows Rd. between Montañño and Paseo del Norte



Introducing Summer Hours at the Open Space Visitor Center

The City of Albuquerque is working to further accommodate the public at Open Space properties and facilities to engage visitors and all citizen in these majestic places around the City. Part of that effort includes a pilot to extend summer hours Thursday - Sunday from 8:30 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. The summer hours will begin this Saturday, July 3, 2021, and run until October 31, 2021. The Open Space Division will take surveys during the pilot period to assess future hours of operations.

Starting this weekend, the Open Space Visitor Center will re-open on Sundays and offer the Bosque Wild Walks, which will resume the first Sunday of each month. Check out the website for weekly event and come down for an after work walk or a Sunday picnic in our scenic patio: www.cabq.gov/openspace.

Open Space Visitor Center summer hours: Tuesday & Wednesday, 9:00am – 5:00pm, Thursday thru Sunday, 8:30am –7:00pm. Closed on Mondays.

Next Steps for the San Antonio Oxbow Extension

The Open Space Division recently celebrated the acquisition of the Poole property located at the end of Namaste Road, adjacent to the San Antonio Oxbow and Rio Grande. The 23-acre property was once slated to be a subdivision for 69 homes. However, due to tireless citizen advocacy the City was able to instead preserve the property as Major Public Open Space. Now it will continue to provide natural habitat for a diversity of species, an important buffer and transition to neighboring development, and beautiful views. It is now the Open Space Division's task to determine how to best preserve these qualities utilizing continued input from the public.

Currently, Open Space staff are addressing preliminary maintenance and management requirements to prepare the property for public access. We anticipate hosting several walking tours this fall to give interested citizens both a first glimpse of the property and the opportunity to provide feedback regarding their ideas for its future management. Each tour will conclude with a short survey to further inform staff of the community's vision for the property.

Be sure to check our website later this summer for specific dates and more details!



Photo Credit: Bill Pentler

El Duende Onion

Onion Space Food Truck!

The Onion Space Division announced that it has received an economic stimulus grant that will be used for both bosque thinning and to help develop local entrepreneurial opportunities for Albuquerque residents. The Division announced it will be partnering with the Culinary Arts Program of Central New Mexico Community College to develop a food truck that will be used at Onion Space special events such as summer programs at the Visitor Center, National Trails Day, and many volunteer trail building events. The food truck will allow CNM students to develop not only their culinary arts skills, but also their business skills, while serving up locally sourced products and helping to thin exotic tree species from the bosque. The food truck will be specializing in smoked Canada goose using a sustainable supply of wood thinned from the Bosque. The truck will be named, *That Fowl Taste!* “You’ll love the Russian olive smoked goose burgers!” said Onion Space Food Specialist, Emeril Latharge. “Bring a friend and share a plate of tree of heaven smoked pulled goose! *Just don’t get stuck with the bill!* “



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

Thriller to be filmed at *Beautiful* Montessa Park!

The Duke City Film Office announced that James Cameron will be directing a new thriller called *The Zoominator* which will be filmed at the Onion Space Administration Building at *beautiful* Montessa Park. *The Zoominator* is about a virtual meeting app that becomes sentient and starts scheduling random meetings for employees of the Onion Space Division. The unsuspecting employees become so confused and fatigued because they can’t keep track of which meeting is which, who called it, or why it was called in the first place. *The Zoominator* eventually finds a human host to carry out its evil agenda and one by one the employees turn into meeting addicted zombies. “*No one will be able to hear you scream, because you’ll be muted!* “

Local Inventor Spins Environmentally Friendly Fabric!

Local inventor, Herman Van Tooten, son of local mad scientist Ethan Van Tooten, unveiled his latest invention: workpants made from spider webs. “They are strong, stand up to everyday wear and tear, and are silky smooth”, said Van Tooten at the annual Onion Space fashion show held at Las Cebollas Fields Visitor Center. Van Tooten donated several pairs of spider web workpants to Onion Space Park Attendants as a test of the material. “The spider web workpants are very comfortable and very durable.” said Park Attendant Calvin Hobbs. “The only problem is that the flies keep getting stuck.”



Of Rattlesnakes & Open Spaces

According to the NMSU Extension Service Circular 541, the western diamondback rattlesnake is the most frequently spotted rattlesnake of the seven species we have in New Mexico.



*western diamondback rattlesnake at the
Elena Gallegos Open Space*

And although it is good sense to exercise caution when hiking in Albuquerque's Open Spaces, particularly if you see a rattlesnake, Open Space Resource Management and Visitor Services Supervisor, Bill Pentler, offers a different perspective on rattlesnakes than we are generally accustomed to.

Bill informs us that "rattlesnakes are not overly aggressive and don't strike unless people mess with them or aren't watching where they are going and step on or too close to them. We are far too large to be considered food and they are more prone to stay away from us as anything our size has a tendency to eat them. If given proper space they go on their way and provide good opportunities for photos or just the ability to soak up the nature moment observing an amazing and beneficial creature."

So in your travels of the Open Spaces, watch where you are going, if you happen to see a rattlesnake give it plenty of space and take a moment to appreciate the wonderful complexity of nature!



Indian Paintbrush in the Sandia's

The Open Space Alliance is Looking for Volunteers and Board Members!

We are seeking enthusiastic people to help the OSA support the use of Albuquerque's beautiful Open Spaces and could use your ideas, talent and passion for the Open Space.

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

The Open Space Alliance Board

*Steve Glass
Monica Yaple
David Belford
Marsha Dunlap*



Sunset at the Candelaria Nature Preserve Photo Credit: Open Space Alliance

Get involved in the Open Space Alliance today and contribute to the future of YOUR Open Space!

Your generous contribution to the Open Space Alliance supports OSA's mission of enhancing the experience of all users of Albuquerque Open Space lands by providing financial support for Open Space Division programs, advocating for sustainability and expansion, and encouraging increased public involvement and use.

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

NAME _____ DATE _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____

HOME PHONE _____ E-MAIL _____

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

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openspacealliance.org



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Open Space News

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OPEN SPACE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

3615 Los Picaros Rd. SE

8:00 am to 4:30 PM

Monday through Friday

(505) 768-4200

ELENA GALLEGOS PICNIC AREA

Winter: 7:00 am to 7:00pm

Summer: 7:00 am to 9:00pm

All week

\$1.00 weekdays / \$2.00 weekends per car

BOCA NEGRA CANYON

PETROGLYPH NATIONAL MONUMENT

8:30 AM TO 4:30 pm ALL WEEK

\$1.00 Weekdays / \$2.00 Weekends per car

OPEN SPACE VISITOR CENTER

6500 COORS BLVD NW

(505) 768-4950

9:00 am TO 5:00 pm

TUESDAY - WEDNESDAY

8:00 am TO 7:00 pm

THURSDAY-SUNDAY

TO REPORT VIOLATIONS

242-COPS

ANNUAL PARKING PASS

Valid for one year from purchase

At Elena Gallegos and Boca Negra

\$30.00

Open Space Division

P.O. Box 1293

Albuquerque, NM 87103

