



OPEN SPACE *newsletter*



Mayor Martín J. Chávez

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

Volume 10, Issue 3, July - September 2009

Celebrating the People and Places of Open Space

a Message from Mayor Martin J. Chávez



Summer is in full swing and visitation to Open Space lands is at an all time high. Not only does the warmer weather increase visitation to Open Space properties, it also brings out the spirit of volunteerism in people as well. The now famous *Los Duendes Trail Crew* is busy at work this season. Besides the annual volunteer trail building and clean-up projects (see page 3), regular conservation and maintenance volunteer projects are plentiful this year.

The Open Space Division relies on help from its volunteers to maintain the approximately 29,000 acres of land the Division manages. Open Space volunteers have proven to be extremely loyal and dedicated. This year I was honored to present Paul Daily the prestigious Mayor's Office of Volunteerism and Engagement (MOVE) award for his outstanding work as an Open Space Trail Watch Volunteer.

On April 22, 2009, Mr. Daily (pictured in the photo on this page) received the "Duque" certificate at a reception held at the Albuquerque Museum. Mr. Daily was nominated by the City of Albuquerque Open Space

Division for his outstanding volunteer service during the past 15 years. Mr. Daily has contributed more than 3,500 hours of his time to educate Open Space visitors about the environment.

Among his many accomplishments, he developed and delivers a special program that teaches children and adults how to use a map and compass to navigate the wilderness. The staff at the Open Space Division commented, "Paul doesn't just love Open Space, he nurtures it and teaches others how to nurture it, too, so that its preservation is assured for future generations." Next time you see this familiar face in the Open Space, congratulate him for all the hard work he has contributed to protecting Albuquerque's precious natural resources.

In addition to hosting a stellar volunteer program, Open Space is taking great strides to protect one of the most unique and important landscapes in the Albuquerque area. Late last year the City Council voted on a resolution to study the western edge of the Tijeras Arroyo and the beautiful riparian areas of that region. The resolution mandated that the study recommend ways to protect the area and its unique natural resources.

In response the Council's resolution, the Open Space Division has composed a new Resource Management Plan (RMP) for the area titled the "Resource Management Plan for the Tijeras Arroyo Biological Zone." The RMP is currently in a draft stage. A final RMP should be ready for public review pending City Council's approval of the Plan.

Continued on page 2...

Celebrating.....continued from page 1

The RMP considers the Tijeras Arroyo between Kirtland Airforce Base and Carñuel and will lay the groundwork for protecting this zone. A Biological and Cultural Resource Survey was conducted prior to the creation of the RMP. Due to the presence of perennial water sources and riparian vegetation the western Tijeras Arroyo provides important habitat for a variety of animals including mountain lion, bobcat, raptors, and migratory and resident songbirds.

The Plan is unique in that it is the first area to receive a RMP where the properties are not entirely owned by the City of Albuquerque. In fact, only five of almost 50 parcels are owned by the City of Albuquerque. Thus, a key component of the Plan outlines priority parcels that should be acquired by the City for future management as well as culturally significant areas to preserve.

The Plan's overall objective is to preserve remaining native vegetation and wildlife habitat, restore native vegetation and wildlife habitat where feasible within the study area, and provide low-impact recreational opportunities to area residents.

As always, I encourage you to go explore the nearly 30,000 acres of Open Space land the City has to offer. The Open Space Division will have special engagements and programs throughout 2009 to celebrate with you during our 25th Anniversary. Visit the Open Space webpage often to learn about upcoming events and fun tours of *your* Open Space!

Celebrate 25 Years of Open Space!

Our Silver Anniversary Event

August 8th, 2009 from 9:00am – 5:00pm

at the Open Space Visitor Center

COST: FREE

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

Learn more about the Division and the varied lands we manage while taking in a festive environment of music, food, tours, workshops, and more at our beautiful Open Space Visitor Center. There will be activities for the whole family in addition to educational displays about the Division and its history.

Scheduled tours and activities include:

- " Self-guided Bosque Tours
- " Piedras Marcadas Pueblo Tour
- " Farm Tours/Hay bale Rides
- " Art Tables for the Kids
- " Live Birds presented by Hawks Aloft
- " Workshops on Gardening and Agriculture
- " Live Music
- " Food vendors
- " Presentations by community members involved in early Open Space preservation

Call **897-8831** or see **www.cabq.gov/open** space for more details

Summer Volunteer Events Wrapup!

~by Kent Swanson

We at the Open Space Division were very excited and appreciative of the high volunteer turnout for our two big summer annual volunteer events, National River Cleanup and National Trails Day!

National River Cleanup

Despite the windy weather, the River Cleanup event was great fun and the volunteers came out in force this year. We had around 140 volunteers working at several locations along the river. Many of the volunteers floated in rafts provided by Kirtland Air Force Base Outdoor Recreation and collected trash from the islands and banks of the river. Many worked at the northeast side of the Central Avenue Bridge.

Overall, volunteers collected an estimated 900 pounds of garbage from the Bosque and river. The National Hispanic Cultural Center (NHCC) also organized their own cleanup with 9 NHCC docents, volunteers and friends working around Bridge Blvd. They collected 15 FULL garbage bags and 2 tires from the NHCC Bosque area. The Bosque del Rio Neighborhood Association organized a cleanup near the Montano Bridge as well.



National Trails Day

The attendance for the 17th Annual National Trails Day event that took place on June 6th exceeded all expectations and in fact broke a record! We had a great event with over 210 volunteers. We built trails, cleaned trash, removed graffiti, built picnic tables, and maintained hiking trails within the Sandia Foothills Open Space areas and the Sandia Mountain Wilderness. *Mil Gracias* go out to REI and the Forest Service for their invaluable contributions to this important event.

On that note, a big fat *Duende* Shout Out to our event sponsors!

REI, the Open Space Alliance, Whole Foods, Passages Church (formerly The Way Church), General Mills, Sports Systems, Trader Joe's, La Montanita Coop, Sophia's Place, Ezra's Place, the West Central Alliance of Neighbors (WeCAN), Starbucks, Sunflower Market, Satellite Coffee, Wolfe's Bagels, Frito Lay, 2 Wheel Drive, Friends of the Sandia Mountains, Rio Grande Community Farm, Los Poblanos Organics, and the City of Albuquerque Aquatics Division!

We couldn't have done it without you!

And a final thanks to all our volunteers! We love our volunteers and we thank you for every drop of sweat expended during these events! Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

Attention Bosque Bird Watchers

Sharing Some Wild Turkey in the Bosque

By Jim Sattler



Wild turkeys have been an important asset to Native Americans for thousands of years, providing food, feathers for blankets and bones for tools. However by 1930 the wild turkeys were almost extinct throughout the United States. Over the years there have been numerous reintroduction programs for the wild turkey, the most recent is underway at Sandia Pueblo.

The Sandia Pueblo Environmental Department has reintroduced Merriam's Turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo merriami*), which is one of three wild turkey species found in New Mexico, into the Bosque at their Pueblo. Biological Technician, Timothy Smith expects the turkeys to migrate beyond Sandia Pueblo boundaries and find their way to Rio Grande Valley State Park. The Open Space Division will be collaborating with Mr. Smith during the monitoring phase of this project.

Open Space volunteers are encouraged to help in this reintroduction project by reporting any turkey sightings to Mr. Smith at 867-4533, Monday – Friday, 8 – 5, or 934-8636 during weekends, or by email at tsmith@sandiapueblo.nsn.us

Please include the following information:

- Give a brief description of the bird including the gender, color of leg band, and number on leg band if you can see it.
- Is there a radio transmitter?
- The number of turkeys spotted
- Time of day.
- Location where spotted.

Please keep these items in mind:

- Do not feed these turkeys otherwise they will become dependant on humans.
- Do not bother turkeys in their roosting area.
- Please do not bother or handle baby turkeys (known as Poults).
- If possible please photograph any turkeys that are spotted.

Here are some tips for identifying Merriam's Turkeys:

The males are larger than the females and have red heads. Some males have beards located about one to two inches from the bottom of their neck. The males also have a brighter and shinier coat than females. The color of the feathers will be red, purple, green, copper, bronze, and gold in the sunlight. The females will be duller in color and have a grayish color to their heads; the males will have a much brighter head and is also red in color. The radio transmitters are about one inch in diameter, with a two inch antenna. This will be attached to the back of the turkey or to the neck of the turkey.



A big Duende "Thanks!" goes to Cheryl Newman and High Desert Bicycles for providing lunch to staff and volunteers during the trail building projects at the Golden Open Space.

Please call Jim Sattler at 452-5213 if you're interested in joining the famous Los Duendes Trail Building Crew!

The 2nd Annual Urban Farm and Harvest Festival

When: September 19th, 2009

Where: Open Space Visitor Center
6500 Coors Rd. NW

Join us for a celebration of Urban Agricultural and Open Space! See www.cabq.gov/openspace or call 897-8831 for more information

We are currently seeking vendors for this event. There are a limited number of booths available for



- .. Small farmers
- .. Local food vendors
- .. Conservation and educational organizations working in agriculture
- .. Arts and crafts vendors

Please call 452-5216 or e-mail: kswanson@cabq.gov for information on how to sign up for a FREE booth. Spaces limited.

Celebrate National Public Lands Day with our Annual Geocaching Event!



When: September 26th
Location and times TBA

Geocaching replaces the parchment map with a **Global Positioning Systems (GPS)** unit to engage in a **modern day treasure hunt**. A GPS unit is a hand-held device that communicates with satellites to identify its unique place on earth.

A geocacher places a cache at a particular spot, posts the coordinates on a website and the game begins! Caches contain a logbook and often they have small gifts. But if you take something from the cache, you have to leave something in the cache.

The Geocache event is a great way to learn more about the sport. All experience levels are encouraged to attend. Please stay tuned for more details!

Contact: Erik Zsemlye with the Open Space Division at 452-5208, or by email at ezsemlye@cabq.gov

The Maze in the Maize is Coming!



The corn is growing and soon the design of a beautiful Monarch butterfly will be cut into the corn field at Los Poblanos Fields Open Space for the adventuresome to wander.

Maze Dates and Hours:

Saturday, August 29, 2009 - Sunday, November 1, 2009. **Grand Opening:** Saturday, August 29th at 11:30 am.

The Maze is open Fridays from 6 - 9pm, Saturdays from 10am - 9pm, and Sundays from 11am - 6pm.

Holiday Hours: Labor Day, Sept. 7 - 10am- 6pm. Columbus Day, Oct. 12 - 10am- 6 pm

Special Days:

Moonlight Maze: September 4-5 and October 2-3 open sunset until 10:00 pm

Haunted Maze: October 30 and 31st: open till Midnight

Entertainment:

Marimba in the Maze: Come hear the Kubatana Marimba Ensemble play beautiful music in the Maze. Date TBA

Tours:

Weekday tours for school, corporate, businesses, church and other groups available.

Please see **www.riograndefarm.org** for reservation information or call the office at 345-4580.

Prices:

Adults (12 and older) \$7.00; Children (4-11) \$3.00; Children under 4 are free

Contact Info:

Mailing Address: 6804 4th Street NW, #114, Los Ranchos de Albuquerque, New Mexico 87107

Phone: (505) 345-4580, **www.riograndefarm.org**

E-mail: **info@riograndefarm.org**

Maze/Farm Location:

Vehicle access is west of 4th St on Montañó Rd. and north on Tierra Viva Rd. Parking is available in the gravel lot on the west side of Tierra Viva Rd.

The Maze is presented by Rio Grande Community Farm in collaboration with the Open Space Division.

2009 Summer Series Calendar

Saturday Sunset Series

The Saturday Sunset Series will feature talks, demonstrations and shows by some of Albuquerque's best speakers, teachers and performers at the Elena Gallegos Picnic Area Amphitheater on Saturdays at 7:00pm. All Saturday Series programs take place at the Elena Gallegos Double Shelter Amphitheater and are free with a \$2.00 entry fee.



July 11th

J'Zamm Jazz Quartet – Music by Bonnie Schmader, Judy Green, Phil Green, and Bill Pommy

July 18th

Stories of Wolves – An educational talk by Elke Duerr

July 25th

CumuloNimbus – Musical performance of flutes, drums and storytelling

August 1st

The White and Black Hat Guys – Stories of NM Lawmen and Outlaws by Mary Diecker

August 8th

Open Space 25th Anniversary Party – An all day event with activities, talks, hikes and music at the Open Space Visitor Center.

August 15th

Middle Eastern and Tahitian Dancing – Performances arranged by Maria Chavez

August 22nd

Folk Music, Storytelling and Dance – An evening of ancient tales and original music on guitar, fiddle, and flute - Johanna and Scott Hongell-Darsee

August 29th

Conservation and Care of Turtles and Tortoises – An educational talk and demonstration by the Rio Grande Turtle and Tortoise Club.

2009 Summer Series Calendar continued....

Sunday Hikes

From varied areas of Open Space. On Sundays, starting at 9:00 a.m., unless stated otherwise, knowledgeable guides and members of our community lead explorations and offer demonstrations in an assortment of fields and specialties. Our wish is to nudge you and your family to widen your horizons and begin a lifelong ritual of returning to your newly discovered favorite Open Spaces. Please call Bill Pentler at 452-5222 or email wpentler@cabq.gov for more information and to register if required for the hike. Directions and more information can also be found on www.cabq.gov/openspace

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July 12th

Volcanoes and Geology – Larry Crumpler, NM Natural History Museum. Meet at the volcanoes in the Petroglyph National Monument for a 2 to 3 hour hike.

July 19th

Awareness and Observation - Mike Bochnia, Survival Specialist. Meet at the Elena Gallegos Kiwanis Shelter for a 2 to 3 hour talk and demonstration. Pre-registration Required.

July 26th

Family Mountain Bike Ride and Clinic - Chuck Malogoti. Meet at the Alameda Trailhead for a 2 hour session. Bring your bike and helmet for a light to medium ride.

August 2nd

Introduction to Tracking – Mike Bochnia, Survival Specialist. Meet at the Alameda Trailhead for a 2 to 3 hour instruction. Pre-registration Required.

August 9th

Forest Health in the Juan Thomas Open Space – Martin Martinez, Open Space Forester. Meet at 8:30 am for a strenuous hike to one of Open Spaces outlying areas. Bring water and whatever you need for a 2 to 3 hour hike. Pre-registration Required.

August 16th

An Introduction to Mountain Biking – Chris and Ann Stageman. Meet at the Elena Gallegos Double Shelter for a 2 to 3 hour session. Bring your bike, helmet, snack, and water. Gloves, patch kit and tubes recommended.

August 23rd

Stories of the Placitas Open Space - Alexander Kurota, Archeologist. Meet at 8:30 am for a strenuous hike to one of Open Spaces outlying areas. Bring water and whatever you need for a 2 to 3 hour hike. Pre-registration Required.

August 30th

Interpretations of the Milne Open Space – John Peterson. Meet at 8:30 am for a strenuous hike to one of Open Spaces outlying areas. Bring water and whatever you need for a 2 to 3 hour hike. Pre-registration Required.

September 6th

Hound Hoedown: A Day of Pet Information and Events 11 am to 4 pm. Meet at the Open Space Visitor Center for an all day event with information, talks, and hikes involving Albuquerque's Animal Services, Animal Humane, and many others.

JULY 2009

ONGOING: FIRST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH, 7:30 AM. *Guided Bosque Nature Walk.* Open Space Visitor Center. A 1.5 hour guided walk into the riverside forest. Drinks and snacks after the hike provided by the Sunflower Market. FREE. Space is limited to 20 people, 7 years old and above. Call 897-8831 to register. Registration is recommended one month in advance.

ONGOING: *Open Space Summer Series.* See pages 7 and 8.

ONGOING: *LAND/ART.* Site Specific Installations and Gallery Exhibitions. Open Space Visitor Center. In the summer and fall of 2009 a group of New Mexico arts organizations will join together to present LAND/ART, exploring relationships of land, art and community through exhibitions, site-specific art works, a speakers series and culminating in a book. See www.landartnm.org for more information or call 897-8831.

Every Sunday, 9:00am-10:30am. *Yoga with a View.* Open Space Visitor Center. Yoga with instructor Jenny Dominique. \$15.00 donation. A portion of the donation benefits the Open Space Alliance. Call 897-8831 for more details.

July 11th and 12th. 9:30-noon. *Stephen Ausherman, artist and author presents a film-making workshop.* Open Space Visitor Center. Call 897-8831 for more details.

July 11th. 9:00am. *LAND/ART NEW MEXICO 2009 Tour.* Open Space Visitor Center. On this tour we will explore site-specific art works located near the Visitor Center. The tour will last approximately two hours. Please bring a hat, sunscreen, water, good walking shoes and a snack. Call 897-8831 for more details. Limit 20 people per tour. Registration required.

AUGUST 2009

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

Every Sunday, 9:00am-10:30am. *Yoga with a View.* Open Space Visitor Center. See July listing.

ONGOING: *Open Space Summer Series.* See pages 7 and 8.

ONGOING: *LAND/ART.* Site Specific Installations and Gallery Exhibitions. Open Space Visitor Center. See July listing.

August 15th. 9:00am. *LAND/ART NEW MEXICO 2009 Tour.* Open Space Visitor Center. See July listing. Call 897-8831 for more details.

Sunday, August 9. 1:00 to 6:00 pm. *She Is An Astronomer.* Open Space Visitor Center. A FREE Astronomy Special Event for Girls presented by the National Radio Astronomy Observatory-Very Large Array and The Albuquerque Astronomical Society in partnership with the City of Albuquerque's Open Space Division. Call 897-8831 for more details.

SEPTEMBER 2009

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

Every Sunday, 9:00am-10:30am. *Yoga with a View.* Open Space Visitor Center. See April listing.

ONGOING: *Open Space Summer Series.* See pages 7 and 8.

ONGOING: *LAND/ART.* Site Specific Installations and Gallery Exhibitions. Open Space Visitor Center. See July listing.

September 5th. 9:00am. *LAND/ART NEW MEXICO 2009 Tour.* Open Space Visitor Center. See July listing. Call 897-8831 for more details.

September 12 through October 29, 2009. *4th Annual Open Space: A View with Room Art Exhibition and Sale.* Open Space Visitor Center. For more details call 505-897-8831 or email jrwillis@cabq.gov.

September 19th. 1:00pm-6:00pm. *2nd Annual Urban Farm and Harvest Festival.* Open Space Visitor Center. Join us for a celebration of local agriculture and Open Space. Call 897-8831 for more details.

September 26th. *National Public Lands Day Geocache Event.* Location and times TBA. Use your GPS unit to find treasures and surprises in Open Space! See page 5 for more details.

Open Space Operations Manager Chris Archuleta Retires



Chris Archuleta started working for the City of Albuquerque way back in 1987, and most of his tenure was spent with the Open Space Division.

He managed what is the nitty gritty backbone of the OSD, namely the fencing, roads, signs, gates, etc. Chris was a hard worker who was always willing to lend a hand to his coworkers.

His even temper and good nature made it a pleasure to work with him. Chris retired in 2008 and will be missed. Chris Tavasci replaces him as Operations Manager.

Plein Air Workshop Series at the Open Space Visitor's Center

Sep 8 - Thu, Sep 10. 9:30 am - 4 pm. Anita Louise West Presents: Any Medium En Plein Air Workshop. \$300

Sep 18 - Sun, Sep 20. 9 am - 4 pm. Bud Edmondson Presents: Watercolor En Plein Air \$325

Register online at
www.pleinairpaintersnm.org or call 897-8831
for more information.

April Foothills Spring Cleanup Highlights!

On behalf of the Open Space Division, we would like to thank everyone who made the **2009 April Spring Cleanup in the Sandia Foothills** such a success. Despite two wet and cold weekends, we were able to perform a significant amount of important conservation work in some of the most popular and scenic public lands in the Albuquerque area.



A total of **206 volunteers** participated in the event, with an average of **51 volunteers** attending each Saturday in April. Volunteers worked on improving recreational trails, restoring eroding hillsides, removing graffiti, cleaning up trash, and removing dog waste (we estimate 100lbs of dog waste were cleaned up each weekend!)

Our volunteers included Boy Scout groups, churches, members of local businesses, and people of all ages. Our sponsors included 2 Wheel Drive, Stone Age Climbing Gym, Theobroma Chocolatier, Passage Community Church, Walmart, the Open Space Alliance, City Of Albuquerque Aquatics Division, and the BioPark Society.

In a growing city, volunteer stewardship of Major Public Open Space lands is becoming more important than ever. The results of this event show that the spirit of volunteerism is strong in the Albuquerque community.

NAME THAT TRASH CONTEST EXTENDED!

Remember the trash identification contest from the last newsletter? Well, unfortunately we didn't get enough entries to award the prize, so the contest has been extended until September 1st! The April-June newsletter with the contest info is still up on our website: www.cabq.gov/openspace. Click the Quarterly Newsletter link!

THE 4TH ANNUAL "A VIEW WITH ROOM PLEIN AIR ART EXHIBIT AND SALE" IS COMING!

WHEN: September 12 through
October 29, 2009.

WHERE: Open Space Visitor Center.

For more details call 505-897-8831 or email
jrwillis@cabq.gov.



Open Space 25th Anniversary Trivia Part 3

1. Which Open Space facility was investigated for the presence of ghosts?
2. Which Open Space property was the site of extensive bean farming in the early 20th Century?
3. During 2008 which Open Space property was littered with hundreds of junk cars, husks of old helicopters and a twisted power line tower? Hint: It's not the West Mesa.
4. Which of the following animals was NOT at one time considered for the Open Space Division mascot? Bucky the Beaver, Prudence the Prairie Dog, Wild Hare (The Angry Trail Regulation Enforcing Rabbit), Guido the Rock Squirrel
5. Eccentric Texas Millionaire Stanley Marsh and creator of the famous roadside landmark the "Cadillac Ranch" owned which area now in the Petroglyph National Monument?

TRIVIA ANSWERS:

1. Montessa Park Administrative Offices
2. Juan Tomas
3. Montessa Park during the filming of Terminator Salvation
4. Guido the Rock Squirrel
5. The Marsh Peninsula, purchased in 1977.

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

Your generous contribution to the Open Space Alliance supports OSA's mission of enhancing our quality of life through: heightening public awareness of Open Space lands; building and strengthening partnerships with groups who share Open Space values; promoting conservation, acquisition, and stewardship of Open Space lands; strengthening volunteerism and community outreach programs, and providing financial support.

For information about our current activities, contact Steve Hamp, OSA Board President, at shamp7@comcast.net, or 247-2523.

To join, please fill out the information and return the form with your check or money order.

NAME: _____ DATE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP CODE: _____

HOME PHONE: _____ E-MAIL: _____

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|---|
| ☐ NEW MEMBER | ☐ \$15 STUDENT (18 & UNDER) / SENIOR | ☐ \$250 SUSTAINING |
| ☐ RENEWAL | ☐ \$20 INDIVIDUAL | ☐ \$500 CORPORATE |
| | ☐ \$30 FAMILY | ☐ \$1000 LIFE MEMBER |

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Open Space News

is a quarterly publication of the
City of Albuquerque, Parks & Recreation Department, **OPEN SPACE DIVISION**
P.O. Box 1293, Albuquerque, NM 87103
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www.cabq.gov/openspace
and funded by the **OPEN SPACE ALLIANCE**

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HOURS OF OPERATION

OPEN SPACE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES

3615 Los Picaros Rd. SE
7:00 am to 5:00 pm
Monday through Friday
(505)452-5200

ELENA GALLEGOS PICNIC AREA

Winter: 7:00 am to 7:00 pm
Summer: 7:00 am to 9:00 pm
all week
\$1.00 weekdays / \$2.00 weekends
(505)857-8334

PETROGLYPH NATIONAL MONUMENT BOCA NEGRA CANYON

8:00 am to 5:00 pm, all week
\$1.00 weekdays / \$2.00 weekends
(505)897-8814

OPEN SPACE VISITOR CENTER

6500 Coors Blvd. NW
(505)897-8831
9:00 am to 5:00 pm
Tuesday - Sunday

TO REPORT VIOLATIONS

8:00 am to 6:00 pm, all week
(505) 452-5206 (voice/relay)
OR
242-COPS