



*Friends of Candelaria Nature Preserve*  
*A Committee of the Open Space Alliance*

## **Newsletter for May 2024**



Above left: Jacob White, Rio Grande Return, guiding volunteers in digging holes for native shrubs, Field 1A. Above right: Lovely rain; lovely irrigation! Teri Neville shared this photograph of a CNP field in April.

### **Contents of Newsletter**

- Crop Plan for 2024
- Speaker for May 30 - Joanna Strange on Birds of the CNP
- Report on Earth Day Booth
- Updates from the Field from Ciudad Soil and Water Conservation District
- Leadership Quarterly Meeting, June 10 - review of leadership and priorities

**Crop Plan for 2024** - attached.

**Speaker for May 30** - Joanna Strange, Field Biologist for the City's Open Space Division, will give us a presentation on Birds of the CNP. Jo did a very well-received program about mammals of the CNP for us last January.

Flyer attached. Please be sure to register in advance as we won't be able to let you into the meeting if you don't.

In the flyer, if the "Registration Required" link does not work, use the URL provided.

If you have any problems registering, contact me, Jeannie Allen, at:

< [friendsofcandelarianaturepres@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofcandelarianaturepres@gmail.com) >

### **Report on Earth Day Booth**

For Earth Day on April 21 at Balloon Fiesta Park, Bill Pentler (recently retired from running Visitor Services at the City's Open Space Division) and I managed a booth that was jointly Open Space Alliance and Friends of CNP. Over 210 people visited the booth, one-third of them children. 22 people signed up to become members of our Friends group. Welcome!!

Likely you are already aware, but Friends of CNP is now an autonomous, collaborative Committee of the Open Space Alliance (OSA). Bill Pentler serves on the OSA Board of Directors, as I do. We meet quarterly.

### **Updates from the Field**

NOTE to members:

I like to limit the number of messages to you, the membership, so these weekly updates from the field do not go to you weekly. If you want to receive them directly from Ciudad Soil and Water Conservation District, I can ask for your email address to be added to the recipients list.

Update of May 17:

Hello, friends and partners of Candelaria Nature Preserve!

Our stellar Water Resources Coordinator, Jaren Peplinski, is at a conference this week and so I am stepping in to send out the highlights of weekly activities at Candelaria Nature Preserve. My apologies in advance if I miss something.

Drone Flight

On Monday this week, Joe Zebrowski and his NMHU team completed a drone flight over the CNP. Joe uses these flights for training students and the CNP provides excellent terrain for data collection. In addition, the flights provide a rich dataset for CNP management.

Vegetation Monitoring

Last Friday volunteers helped to complete vegetation transects in Field IB. These transects are an important part of the monitoring process to evaluate the effectiveness of management decisions. Thank you to Ruth, Terry, and Jacob for leading this effort!

Volunteer Events

Volunteer events are ongoing - please contact Jaren Peplinski ([jaren@ciudadswcd.org](mailto:jaren@ciudadswcd.org)) for info on how to get involved.

Other than these highlights, staff from Rio Grande Return, the City of Albuquerque, and Ciudad Soil and Water Conservation District continue to work tirelessly to improve and restore habitat at the CNP. If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to reach out to us. Have a great weekend.

Sincerely,

Orlando C. Romero

Watershed Conservation Manager

[Ciudad Soil & Water Conservation District](#)

#### Update of May 10:

Good evening, friends and partners of Candelaria Nature Preserve!

I hope everyone had a nice week. I want to share this week's update on CNP with you, below:

#### Irrigation

CNP received its third preserve-wide irrigation water of the season this week. New seedlings in Field 4A are being given special irrigation attention because they are still in a vulnerable stage of their development. Fields 2A and 3A received additional water last week to try and flush weed seeds out of the soil. Rio Grande Return will be doing another shallow till in 2A and 3A to prepare the soil for seeding, which is intended to happen before receiving the next irrigation notices.

#### Drone Flights

New Mexico Highlands University will be doing a drone flight to collect multispectral data at CNP next week - this provides CNP with useful data for management purposes and also serves as a valuable training exercise for NMHU students and staff.

#### Family Nature Club

This month's [Family Nature Club](#) event was held at CNP this past weekend, and the theme was Bosque Critters.

Thank you,  
Jaren

#### Update of May 3

Hello, friends and partners of Candelaria Nature Preserve,

Please see below for recent updates on activities at CNP:

#### Volunteers

Last Friday's volunteer event was given a huge boost by 11 extra folks helping manage weed pressure in the basins of Field 1B. Are you interested in getting your hands dirty and participating in the development of Candelaria Nature Preserve? Volunteer opportunities are

available on Mondays, 8:00am-12:00pm, and Fridays, 10:00am-12:00pm. Contact Jeannie Allen ([friendsofcandelarianaturepres@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofcandelarianaturepres@gmail.com)) if you would like to get involved.

#### Irrigation

Fields 4A, 2A, and 3A received irrigation water this week thanks to folks at Rio Grande Return working with MRGCD to coordinate watering times.

#### Bird Alliance Thursday

The Bird Alliance coordinates a bi-monthly program that takes place all over the city, with this week's event occurring at Candelaria Nature Preserve. If you want to hear about future Thursday 'Birders with the Bird Alliance of Central New Mexico' events, check out their website at [www.bacnm.org](http://www.bacnm.org).

#### City Nature Challenge

This past weekend, community members got together for the annual City Nature Challenge, featuring an afternoon hike at Candelaria Nature Preserve with folks making observations at CNP. Participants observed a Cooper's Hawk with a freshly caught swallow in its talons.

#### Other Bird News

CABQ Open Space Division has confirmed an active American Kestrel nest box, the presence of Swainson's Hawks that are actively building nests on-site, and a Cooper's Hawk that has been seen nesting on the south tract of CNP.

Thank you,  
Jaren

#### Update of April 26

Hello, friends and partners of Candelaria Nature Preserve,

#### Birders Rejoice!

Swainson's Hawks are back at Candelaria Nature Preserve. This is the same bird featured on the Friends of Candelaria Nature Preserve logo, and for good reason. Pairs of this majestic migratory bird species live at the nature preserve every year.



Swainson's Hawk. Photo credit: Ecological Council of Sacramento

### Bosque Field Techs

If you notice a few new faces around CNP at volunteer events or conducting bird surveys, it might be the new Bosque Field Techs from CABQ Open Space Division, Elena, Maura, and Kaitlin. Don't be afraid to say hello and get to know these lovely people who will be involved in monitoring, restoration, and helping with community events throughout the bosque and CNP.

### Field Prep

Rio Grande Return was busy tilling Fields 2A and 3A last week, which will serve to help prepare the soil for warm-season grass plantings.

### Irrigation

Fields 4A and 4B, as well as 2D, received irrigation water last week thanks to our partners at Rio Grande Return.

### Cottonwood Gulch

Friday, April 12's volunteer event, with the support of Cottonwood Gulch, was a great success with bucket-watering newly transplanted plants and mulching in Field 1A.

### Volunteering

Interested in getting your hands dirty and participating in the development of Candelaria Nature Preserve? Volunteer opportunities are available on Mondays, 8:00am-12:00pm, and Fridays, 10:00am-12:00pm. Contact Jeannie Allen ([friendsofcandelarianaturepres@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofcandelarianaturepres@gmail.com)) if you would like to get involved.

Thank you,  
Jaren

Jaren Peplinski

Water Resources Coordinator, Ciudad Soil & Water Conservation District

## **Leadership Quarterly Meeting, June 10**

Our Officers and Board of Directors will hold our quarterly meeting on Wednesday, June 10, 2024, from 5:00 to 6:30 PM, on Zoom.

(Hybrid meetings that involve people in person and also on Zoom are very hard to manage, so this one will be strictly on Zoom.!)

All members of Friends of CNP are welcome. Please let me know at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting if you would like to join us, and I will send you the URL.

This meeting on June 10 will be an important one as we will review the tasks required by the Committee Chair, which position I have held since the beginning of our Friends group in November 2020. I will be stepping back to make room for new leadership this August. On June 10 we will consider the strengths and experience desired for a new Committee Chair (in addition to other issues).

Please feel free to send your thoughts in advance of the meeting, whether or not you can participate in real time.

With all best regards,  
Jeannie