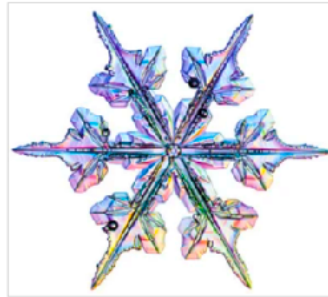




*Friends of Candelaria Nature Preserve
A Committee of the Open Space Alliance*

Quarterly Newsletter, Fall 2024



Above left: Raindrop on lupine (J. Allen). Above right: Snowflake (K. Libbrecht)

Hello Everyone!

It was a wetter-than-usual summer, and we got early snow in the mountains early this month.

We will learn specifically how precipitation affected the CNP growing season when we have an annual report from Jo Strange, Open Space Division (OSD) this winter. The Crop Plan for 2025 will be part of that report.

CONTENTS of NEWSLETTER

- I. Tax-deductible donations to Friends of CNP
- II. Celebration of the 40th Anniversary of the CABQ Open Space Division, September 14
- III. Interpretive Planning in-person meeting at the CNP on October 15 and submission of Interpretive Plan to CABQ Open Space Divn.
- IV. In-person Gathering of Friends of CNP and neighbors on October 19
- V. Quarterly Meeting of CNP stakeholders (Open Space Divn. Ciudad SWCD, Rio Grande Return, Friends of CNP), November 8, with Notes from the Field
- VI. Quarterly Meeting of CNP Leadership Team, November 14
- VII. Status of our monthly Speaker series
- VIII. Save the Date: Thursday, March 27, 2025 ~ Stakeholders Meeting



Attachments:

- Map of CNP with fields identified
- Tree Nursery Tract design
- Open Space Alliance Newsletter of November 2024 ~ with thanks to Lance Chilton

BODY OF NEWSLETTER

I. Tax-deductible Donations especially in light of Budget Cuts to OSD

The City of Albuquerque recently required our Open Space Division to cut its budget by 17%. In compliance, Colleen McRoberts, Superintendent, and her colleagues have had to cut some well-loved programs and are in need of funds for Interpretive signs and programs at the CNP.

Donations to Friends of CNP are **tax-deductible** if they are made through the Open Space Alliance (of which we are a Committee with our own sub-account).

Making donations is straightforward.

- Go to: <https://openspacealliance.org>
- Click on "Donate" at upper right
- Click on "Donate Here" (white font on blue background)
- Fill out "Basic Information"
- Scroll down to "Donation Designation" and see "Friends of the Candelaria Nature Preserve".

The rest should be straightforward. If you have any problems with this, please let me know and I will walk you through the steps.

We can also contact the accountant for the Open Space Alliance, Jennifer Moss.

I will be glad to write an official letter of thanks for your tax records; just ask.

II. Celebration of the 40th Anniversary of the CABQ Open Space Division, September 14

This was a truly enjoyable event, with high attendance, and great enthusiasm (including from me, as I ended up in the front row by accident).

Among the speakers were Tim Keller, Mayor, and of course Colleen McRoberts, Superintendent of the OSD.





Artist Deborah Jojola spoke movingly about making murals for the new OSVC Torreon, with assistance from Leon Sanchez. These murals are beautiful!!



III. Interpretive Planning in-person meeting at the CNP on October 15; submission of Interpretive Plan to CABQ OSD

Representatives from OSD, Ciudad SWCD, Rio Grande Return, and Friends of CNP met in person to make some decisions about the Interpretive Plan. I integrated these decisions into the full Interpretive Plan and submitted it to Colleen McRoberts on October 22. The OSD will finalize text and images according to this version of the Interp Plan. Some funds from the Friends of CNP account may be used for signs if approved by our Leadership Team.

IV. In-person Gathering of Friends of CNP and neighbors on October 19

It was by far the coldest, rainiest day in several months. To cancel or not to cancel?! We went ahead. Location, Tree Nursery Tract, with much appreciation to Jo Strange who made the use of the TNT possible. After the wind died down, it was fun, and we now have least ten new members. WELCOME, new members!

It was not a terribly big deal to organize this, and it would be wonderful to have such an open house quarterly. Do you want to help? Let me know!



V. Highlights from Quarterly Meeting of CNP Stakeholders (Open Space Divn. Ciudad SWCD, Rio Grande Return, Friends of CNP), November 8, **with Notes from the Field**

Colleen McRoberts:

Review of CNP Resource Management Plan (RMP) in 2025

The RMP is intended to be a responsive, living document and as such, it is to be reviewed every four years for minor adjustments. Review is coming up, with conversations to begin in September 2025.

Part of our responsibility as Friends of CNP is to keep track of any recommendations for such adjustments and how they may impact the Preserve.

Colleen is interested in relaxing the cap of 24 visitors per group, three groups per week. More to come on this as the months roll by.

Finances

The big need at CNP is about \$1 million for implementing Phase 2 of the Tree Nursery Tract design, [attached to Newsletter in pdf]. OSD is also just waiting for estimate for the bridge that will link the TNT with the CNP across the Duranes lateral. "It's taking fa long time. The important thing is that once we get a cost figure, Friends of CNP can write letters and email messages in support, and best of all, assemble a group and go up to **Santa Fe** to meet with legislators.

I will let you know when that opportunity comes up.

Field notes by Cameron Weber (Rio Grande Return):

Again we expect to have an Annual Report from Jo Strange, Field Biologist for the Open Space Division (OSD), in December. The Report will include a Crop Plan for 2025.

In the meantime, informal notes on the Growing Season from Cameron Weber, Rio Grande Return:

Over this growing season, planned seeding was done; invasive species were removed; and lots of irrigation took place. The acres of wildlife crops was increased to at least 14 acres, and another 5 acres were planted in native grasses that are doing great.

Designs were made for Fields 2B and 2C. [Map attached to Newsletter so you can see which fields those are.]

2C work was completed, and construction on 2B is underway with final touches.



Water pulsed through those fields with the first season's irrigation, and wide diversity of species were planted ~ hundreds of plants, addressing promises made to Healthy Soils for the granted funds. a

Field IC was also involved in the Healthy Soils grant. We were able to complete tie-ins to irrigation and some grading in the northeast corner.

VI. Quarterly Leadership Team Meeting

Our quarterly Leadership Team meeting was held on November 14.

Participants: Diana Daleo, Jim Rhodes, Carolyn Siegel, Cheryl Zebrowski, and Jeannie Allen. (Katie had to miss.)



Two Items from that meeting:

1) Funds

We have \$8,500 in our account held by the Open Space Alliance. We are considering using some of that money as a match for funds from a private foundation to complete and implement the Interpretive Plan (signage text and design; learning-teaching trunks (Ask me if you want to learn more.)

2) Reivew of RMP

The CNP Resource Management Plan is to be reviewed by the Open Space Advisory Board every four years for minor modifications according to what is learned about wildlife and visitors in the field. 2025-25 is our time frame for the first review. Friends of CNP has a responsibility to track the recommendations that will be made to the OSAB and to make sure they adhere to the spirit and letter of the RMP.

Our next meeting will be February 20. If you're interested in participating please let me know!

VII. Status of our monthly Speaker series

Our speaker series is on a break for the holidays and will return in January.

We remain incredibly fortunate to have Katie Stone managing the series for us.

Send your ideas for speakers you'd like us to have.

VIII. Save the Date: Thursday, March 27, 2025 - Next Stakeholders meeting with OSD, Ciudad SWCD, RGR at the CNP Tree Nursery Tract; then in-person open house



And finally, here's a link to a *High Country News* article about the future of the Bosque, with thanks to Carolyn Siegel:

<https://www.hcn.org/issues/56-11/the-future-of-new-mexicos-beloved-bosque/>

Attachments:

- Map of CNP with fields identified
- Tree Nursery Tract design
- Open Space Alliance Newsletter of November 2024 ~ with thanks to Lance Chilton



The Woodward House
(From 2022, I think)