

APS and Bernalillo County Community Centers are potential partners for a variety of educational and stewardship projects. Bernalillo County should form partnerships with APS staff and County community center staff to initiate curriculum development, student field trips, community events, and other educational activities. Certain events at Ojito will be dependent on off-site parking due to limited parking capacity onsite and the need to lessen vehicle impacts. Working with the *San Antonio de Padua* church to accommodate parking makes the most sense.

H. Carnuel Land Grant and the Carnuel Acequia Association

Both of these groups have a vested interest in the property because of their past and current relationship to the land. The springs drain to Tijeras Canyon and this feeds the Carnuel acequia.

I. Law Enforcement and Emergency Responders

Trespassing, hunting, and user conflicts have been identified as the primary law enforcement issues at Ojito. Currently, the Bernalillo County Sheriff's Department is responsible for responding to emergency calls at all nine East Mountain Open Space properties (City and County). City of Albuquerque Open Space rules and regulations have been adopted by Bernalillo County as the governing ordinance for its Open Space properties. As a result, it could be mutually beneficial for the City and the County to cooperatively fund Open Space ranger personnel dedicated to the East Mountain area. Although funding is currently not allocated to fill such positions, Open Space planners from the City and the County should begin a collaborative training effort to assist fire, emergency medical personnel, and law enforcement agencies by preparing detailed response plans. These response plans should be presented in an interagency workshop format. The following is a list of items to be included in the response plans along with suggestions for improving the implementation of the plans:

- Compile briefing packets that include detailed maps, sites plans, boundary information, aerial photos, and driving directions to all nine Open Space properties.
- Include copies of all relevant City/County Open Space ordinances and USFS rules and regulations.
- Distribute briefing packets to appropriate Bernalillo County Sheriff's deputies, management, and support staff as soon as possible.
- Request City and County information technology departments to enter Open Space property descriptions and pertinent GPS information into Map Quest for patrol unit reference.
- Train site stewards (including neighborhood association and Crime Watch volunteers) in incident report preparation.
- Include a comprehensive list of interagency personnel contact information and emergency response telephone numbers.

VIII. COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Continued coordination with community organizations will be essential if site development at Ojito is to reach its capacity for providing recreational and educational activities as well as protecting natural and cultural resources. Ideally, two volunteer oriented stewardship activities could be conducted every year at Ojito.

A. Open Space Stewardship

Another goal of this RMP is to develop sustainable stewardship practices for all East Mountain Open Space properties. The County Open Space Section does not have the staff or financial resources to develop the recommendations identified in these site plans without community involvement. A key finding as a result of this planning process is the need for neighborhood associations, community organizations, trail user groups, business community members, and schools to take an active part in Open Space management. To successfully coordinate volunteer activities, the County will need to dedicate adequate staff time to effectively administer stewardship opportunities.

Some community stewardship projects have already occurred. Examples include Trail Partners performing trail maintenance, East Mountain High School and the Intermountain Conservation Trust addressing watershed restoration concerns, the Carnuel Land Grant Association tackling forest health issues, Talking Talons Youth Leadership committing to environmental education programs, neighbors training as Trail Watch volunteers, the Albuquerque Radio Orienteering Club providing detailed maps, and the *Acequia Madre de San Antonio* Community Ditch Association protecting and maintaining the *acequias* at Ojito de San Antonio Open Space. These activities should continue and require enhanced coordination with land management agencies.

Projects have been completed that demonstrate the ability of neighborhood and community groups to organize and complete Open Space resource management projects. In March 2003, more than 25 volunteers attended a trail construction and maintenance workshop giving them skills to assess and improve Open Space property trails. In December 2003, more than 25 volunteers learned fuel-load reduction techniques and applied that knowledge on land at San Antonito Open Space. Additional training workshops in orchard trimming, invasive species removal, historic and cultural site preservation, wildlife monitoring, erosion control, forest restoration and other topics will provide Open Space land managers with a cadre of volunteers who can assist with land management and take home skills to better manage their own land. Continued training and support of volunteers is critical for a sustainable stewardship program. Stewardship goals and strategies for East Mountain Open Space are being developed.

B. Volunteer Organizations

Volunteers have played an important role in Ojito since it's purchase in 1999. Many different organizations have donated their time to help inventory property resources and begin improvements to meet both public safety and natural resource restoration needs.

ii. Ojo Grande Neighborhood Association

Continue to partner with the association. Neighbors may be interested in participating in site stewardship projects, such as an *Adopt-an-Area* program.

iii. Talking Talons Youth Leadership Center

Continue to partner with Talking Talons/Youth Conservation Corps (Talking Talons) program to accomplish various projects. Talking Talons is interested in using the site for environmental education.

iv. East Mountain Garden Society

East Mountain Garden Society members could help identify plants onsite and may be willing to help the County develop a guided interpretive walk that highlights the property's diversity of plants. Other potential projects could include orchard care and grafting programs of heirloom variety of fruit trees.

vi. Thursday Birders/Partners In Flight

Ojito has been recommended for Important Bird Area designation. These groups can provide technical assistance for conducting bird species inventories and in making management decisions that sustain bird habitat.

vii. Albuquerque Amateur Radio Club

The Albuquerque Amateur Radio Club assisted Bernalillo County’s site mapping efforts by producing a detailed site map for Sedillo Ridge using GPS technology in 2003. The remaining County-owned EMOS properties—including Ojito—also need to be mapped at this level. It may be possible to procure these services from the Albuquerque Amateur Radio in exchange for access to these sites for Club sponsored events.