

LAS PLACITAS  ASSOCIATION  
2007 ANNUAL REPORT

*Our goal is to protect open space, restore riparian watersheds, promote recreational, educational and rural activities, and engage the members of our community in appreciating the environmental and cultural richness of this area. We work with residents, land owners, developers and others to ensure Placitas retains its quality of life, adequate and clean water, clean air, dark skies, plant and animal diversity, scenic views, sites of archaeological significance and opportunities to learn about and enjoy our surroundings.*

Find out more about LPA -- including directions to the Open Space -- by logging onto [www.lasplacitas.org](http://www.lasplacitas.org).

**Community Outreach/Fund Raising** - The work of the Community Outreach committee continued to focus on opposition to gravel mine expansion adjacent to the Placitas Open Space. LPA supported efforts to encourage the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to update their 20+ year old Resource Management Plan for BLM lands north of Placitas (including gravel mine leases). Those efforts proved successful and BLM is now undertaking an extensive public outreach campaign to solicit input on management alternatives for the entire Rio Puerco Management District (approximately 5 million acres). LPA will continue to support conservation and low-impact recreational uses for the public lands immediately adjacent to Placitas. We are inviting your input on preferred management alternatives – please fill out and return the enclosed survey!

**A special thanks to Carol Parker for her assistance with these efforts.**

**Education/Hikes** – We had wide community use of the Placitas Open Space area during the 8 events hosted by LPA this season. Thirty to forty people were in attendance at the Bird Hike and also at the wild plant hike in the open space. The Diamond Tail Hike was a big hit with over 40 in attendance and the Star Party had great weather and over 100 community members in attendance. All attendees learn the beauty and history of our wonderful open space and appreciate the fragile treasure that we have in our community.

**Placitas Open Space** - In conjunction with our Las Huertas Watershed project, LPA has worked cooperatively with City of Albuquerque Open Space Division to implement volunteer-driven management measures included in the Placitas Open Space Management Plan. LPA volunteer crews worked during 2007 to remove over 3 miles of old fence, restore existing trails, construct new ones, and close trails that are no longer needed. In addition to our ever-popular plant-identification and bird watching hikes, LPA sponsored a 10-year update report on the ecological conditions of the Placitas Open Space, conducted by resident plant ecologist Bill Dunmire.

**Watershed Management/Riparian Restoration** - 2007 was another productive year for the Watershed Project. Thanks to all the LPA members who have participated in our many educational seminars and project workshops throughout the year. Riparian restoration efforts focused on our work with private landowners along the Rosa de Castilla reach of Las Huertas Creek. Together with Forest Guardians, we planted hundreds of native cottonwood and willow trees to restore native riparian habitat in this area. We also designed and implemented Creek channel stabilization structures in this area to reduce erosion and channel scour, enhance riparian vegetation and wildlife habitat, and increase aquifer recharge. We continue to work with the New Mexico Department of Transportation to improve road drainage in upper Las Huertas Canyon. We are working cooperatively with BLM to conduct necessary cultural resource clearances for projects on private lands, as well as designing watershed restoration projects on BLM lands north of Placitas. Thanks again for your participation, and we look forward to further restoration work with you in 2008!