

LAS PLACITAS  ASSOCIATION
2009 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.

Land Conservation - The work of the Land Conservation committee focused on two main efforts this year: 1). Providing public input to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Resource Management Plan revision for BLM lands within and near Placitas; and 2). Working with the *Pathways: Wildlife Corridors of New Mexico* group for long-term conservation of the Crest of Montezuma area just northeast of the Village of Placitas. LPA continues to support long-term conservation uses of Placitas area BLM lands through the RMP revision. LPA has supported *Pathways* in providing public education and outreach regarding U.S. Forest Service acquisition of the Crest of Montezuma, a prominent Placitas landmark. Forest Service management would provide the best long-term protection of the Crest for low-impact recreational uses.

Education/Hikes - We had wide community use of the Placitas Open Space area during our two favorite Open Space events: the Migratory & Nesting Bird Hike and the Plants of the Placitas Open Space Hike this past spring. In September we hosted a "Placitas and the Santa Fe Trail" event -- a lecture and Chautauqua relating the adventures of Jose Librado Gurule, a descendant of one of the first families of Las Placitas and early traveler on the Santa Fe Trail. The Diamond Tail Hike in October toured another remote petroglyph site with a staff of experts in attendance. Our annual Star Party had great weather and plenty of community participation. What a great way to enjoy the many treasures that we have in our back yards.

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 with the City of Albuquerque Open Space Division staff during 2009 to restore existing trails, construct new ones, and close trails that are no longer needed.

Watershed Management/Riparian Restoration - 2009 was another great year for the Watershed Project. Riparian restoration efforts continued to focus on our work with private landowners along the Rosa de Castilla reach of Las Huertas Creek. Working with restoration contractors *Rangeland Hands* and *Dryland Solutions* we implemented "induced meandering" techniques along this reach of Creek to repair flood damage, prevent erosion, restore riparian vegetation and wildlife habitat and increase aquifer recharge. Thanks to all the LPA members who have participated in our project workshops throughout the year.