



Friends of Candelaria Nature Preserve Fall 2025 Newsletter

LANDSCAPE STORIES: The summer's drought was so considerable, we assumed we had seen our last irrigation water by July. However, in September the rains came and kept coming. Suddenly we had an emergence of seedlings throughout the fields as well as the return of irrigation water. All good things converged to create an extended growing season.



WILDLIFE STORIES:

Strategically placed along trails and wildlife corridors, Niya Sandoval of Rio Grande Return curates photos for the Preserve. This set of photos capture our nighttime visitors. The ubiquitous raccoons (*Procyon motor*) inhabit our wild places ... who would have known since these trash panda's are regular nighttime prowlers throughout our neighborhoods.



This porcupine (*Erethizon dorsatum*) appears to be enjoying a branch of a globe mallow (*Sphaeralcea* spp.). All parts of this plant are essential and enjoyed by mammals, birds, and insects.



VOLUNTEER & RIO GRANDE RETURN STORIES:

This past October we initiated a Volunteer Blitz on one of our regular Friday volunteer days. We were thrilled with the participation of some of our regular volunteers, along with additional individual members of the Friends of Candelaria Nature Preserve, and others from the community that heard about our event from various sources.

With over 20 individuals in three hours, we were able to accomplish a significant number of tasks within the prominent field seen from the entrance. From planting shrubs, watering, pulling elms, removing tumbleweeds, and applying mulch, we expect those that regularly walk the trails along the front fence line will enjoy the fruits of our volunteer labors.



Our regular volunteer days are Mondays and Fridays. Winter hours typically run from 9am to noon, but longer stays are welcome.

Our **Mondays** are beginning to attract regulars that include Carly Wall, Dane Laufer, Dakota Grogan, and Luke Morrell (*left to right*).

IT'S THE VIBE!

So says Carly



It's time to introduce some of the regular Rio Grande Return Field Team. This group teaches and works with us, but more importantly there are a lot of things that get miraculously completed in between the volunteer visits. Emma Overstreet, Tuff Ramone, Niya Sandoval, and Abe Aufdermauer.

FRIENDS OF CANDELARIA NATURE PRESERVE (FCNP) UPDATES:

A reminder to our volunteers — hours spent by volunteers restoring CNP's landscapes will further release funds in support of projects at the Preserve for the next 3 years.

The 5-year review of the Candelaria Nature Preserve Resource Management Plan is in process. A Zoom meeting was held October 30, 2025 with FCNP members, CABQ Open Space Division, Ciudad Ciudad Soil and Water Conservation District, and Rio Grande Return. The next step will be a be sometime in February 2026 with a review by the Open Space Advisory Board.

Zoom Speaker Series: If you have ideas for content or specific people/ organizations, please email us at: friendsofcandelarianaturepres@gmail.com