

FCNP Contributions to the Land & Water Conservation Fund for CNP

Your donations and volunteer time contribute to CNP's successes



CANDELARIA NATURE PRESERVE

MAY 15, 2026

A 3-year Grant for Candelaria Nature Preserve (CNP)

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Grant was awarded to Ciudad Soil and Water Conservation District on behalf of CNP.

Restoration work in specific fields are covered under this grant (1B, 1D, 2A, 4B, 4C, Bosque). The partners for this grant include: City of Albuquerque (CABQ), the Ciudad Soil and Water Conservation District (CSWCD), Rio Grande Return (RGR), and the Friends of Candelaria Nature Preserve (FCNP).



Note: the “Bosque” fields are new sections taken from a portion of the southern end of fields 1D and 1E.

The Friends, that’s you, donated an additional \$6000 to be administered over the 3-year period to support restoration efforts. Additionally, your volunteer hours over the 3-year grant are also used as in-kind efforts. That is, while we work in the fields or recently expanded native plant nursery, this translates into funds to RGR who manages the restoration.

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Donations to Friends of Candelaria Nature Preserve are handled through the Open Space Alliance, [Visit Here](#). Thank you!

Expanded Native Plant Nursery - Volunteer Opportunity



Dappled shade native plant nursery at CNP.

Volunteers are needed to help with a variety of tasks that may include watering and repotting at the Nursery. We are looking for individuals

that can contribute a few hours each week. Monday through Wednesday from 9am-2pm are days we are looking for support. We also have an extensive database to track the plants and which projects they will be used on throughout the state. If you would prefer an armchair database task for these plants, that's needed, too. Please contact Hollis Moore (Hollis@riograndereturn.org) if you are interested in any of these tasks.

Save the Date Friday, May 29 — Hands On Volunteer Day, Gloves On!



It's about being outside in your community of like-minded folks and your personal connection to the natural landscape.

Each Monday and Friday from 9 am to noon you can stop by the front gate of CNP at the end of Arbor Rd NW. A sign at the gate will direct you to where to find the staff for the day's work.

Friday, May 29 any time between 9am and noon, join us for another Volunteer Blitz Day where you can be involved in essential seasonal activities that increase the sustainability of nearly 100 acres of wildlife habitat in our city. To make it a festive event, we'll provide some water and cookies and opportunities to catch up with the various milestones reached by our combined efforts. *Come join us to chop weeds and carry water!*

Last Friday of the Month Tours at CNP from 10am to noon



During a visit with our volunteer tour guides, you will pass through a mosaic of landscapes ‘in restoration’ that comprise vital habitats to migrating birds, as well as resident birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, and invertebrates. The informative walks connect history and geology to our present efforts to return habitat and sustainable climate-ready environments to diverse wildlife. Join our guides at the front walk-in gate (to the right of the main gate) to the Preserve on the last Friday of the month at 10am.

2026 Crop Plan Is In Process — Some Sneak Previews

As mentioned above, the far NW fields of 1D and 1E have been in the process of a transition in the W/4 of these fields. Anybody recall the days of deciphering Township, Range and Section geographic descriptors? I'm using this in lieu of a map, so patience.

These sections lie closest to the bosque and the associated ditches/acequias and therefore, has relatively high groundwater. The plan is to do some pole planting of cottonwoods and coyote willow and grasses that can take inundation of water and periods of extreme drying. Thus, the change from our alpha-numeric nomenclature to an area more descriptive of its planned ecosystem, "Bosque".



Looking NE across a portion of the new Bosque field in January 2026. Note the proximity of cottonwoods along the western border. One of the wildlife viewing areas also lies within the cottonwoods.

Accomplished Thus Far in Bosque Fields

- Berms were established on the eastern side to separate management prescriptions, primarily for water.
- Tumbleweed (*Salsola tragus*), an invasive plant species from Eurasia and the predominant non-native, was removed individually by volunteers and staff using pitchforks and removed from the Preserve. This was done to limit the number of non-native growth when irrigation water is applied to the area.
- Grass seed was broadcast followed by spreading straw as a mulch by hand. This will aid in establishing native, desirable plants during rain events and applications of irrigation water. These fields already had representative stands of spike dropseed (*Sporobolus contactus*), a common native grass in more dry areas of the bosque.

Planned Work

- This coming Winter in February 2027, 1E, the northern-most Bosque field will receive pole planting and transition into a damp soil grassland.
- Field 1D will remain wildlife crop under irrigation for a bit longer.

FCNP Leadership by Committee

The Friends have transitioned to a Leadership by Committee. Our thanks go to the following members: Jeannie Allen, Diana Daleo, Augusta Farley, Jim Rhodes, Ruth Salvaggio, Carolyn Siegel, Katie Stone, Cheryl Zebrowski, and Joanna Strange. Teri Neville is handling the newsletter and communications through Substack.

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