



ABQ THE PLAN: THE RIO GRANDE VISION

CONNECT, PROTECT AND EXCITE!



Photo Credit: Bill Tondreau

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

introduction

The Implementation Strategy provides a road map for moving forward with the Rio Grande Vision. The following implementation components are included in this chapter:

- Planning and design guidelines define the critical characteristics and attributes of anticipated improvements and efforts, and explain how they help to Connect, Protect and Excite!
- The Project Identity study reflects naming and branding research that was completed in the early phase of the project, but which is no less relevant now. Successful project communications, promotions, wayfinding and signage systems will rely in part on a strong identity and brand. Right now, few people say “Let’s go to the river!” We want the Rio Grande in Albuquerque to be a destination.
- The future organizational structure associated with the Rio Grande Vision is uncertain, but the Implementation Strategy outlines several options for consideration and explains why this is an important feature of the project.
- Phasing is divided into design and planning projects. These lists are the recommendations for the first projects to go forward from the Rio Grande Vision Plan.
- Funding will be a determining factor in implementation. Issues and opportunities related to funding are listed in this section.
- Case studies are included in this section to provide motivation, inspiration and information on implementation strategies used in other river cities.

design/planning guidelines

Guidelines for implementation of the Rio Grande Vision are intended to remind participants of important project characteristics, attributes, and priorities, while allowing flexibility in detail development and process. The Rio Grande Vision is a conceptual plan that will be implemented over time by multiple stakeholders. The guidelines are the framework for decision-making related to planning and design that will ensure that the collective impact of the individual projects reinforces the principles and goals of the Rio Grande Vision.

connect

- Connect to the conservation work that preceded the Rio Grande Vision, such as the Bosque Action Plan, by establishing a method for ecological analysis of improvements in order to create data and establish and share best practices for restoration and future improvements.

- Create a meaningful public outreach process to allow the public to learn about the project scopes and offer information and opinion.
- Create a coordinated and consistent regional wayfinding and signage program for Rio Grande Valley State Park that connects all of the jurisdictions along the river to the Park.
- Develop a hierarchy of coordinated access areas along the entire corridor that will connect citizens to the river with high quality, dependable, and inspirational amenities.
- Complete the Blue/Green Trail within the project area and promote expansion of the Trail to river communities in New Mexico, Colorado, and Texas.
- Establish a coordinating oversight entity/or coalition that will work to coordinate activities within Rio Grande Valley State Park, refine the details of the Corridor Plan, and guide coordinated implementation of the Rio Grande Vision.

protect

- Establish a design review and approval process that complies with the intent of Bosque Action Plan policies and applicable municipal codes and ordinances, and includes review by the Open Space Advisory Board, and coordination with the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District and the US Bureau of Reclamation. Depending on the type and location of improvements, other reviews or approvals may be sought from the US Army Corps of Engineers, and the City of Albuquerque’s Environmental Planning Commission.
- Involve the public in the design discussion for new improvements in RGVSP.
- Think beyond the limits of work for each improvement project by addressing ecological conditions and natural systems during design and construction.
- Focus placement of improvements in areas that have already been developed or disturbed. Maintain or improve habitats.
- Field verify all construction plans. Make design adjustments as necessary to preserve significant vegetation and ecologically healthy areas.
- Do not tear out something good just to install something new, and design with sustainability and resilience in mind.
- Consolidate trails and paths to protect and reinforce the boundaries of natural or sensitive areas. Use these trails to lead people past these areas or allow them to see them from a distance.
- Restore abandoned trail areas with appropriate native and desirable vegetation, and include conservation or restoration as components of improvement projects.
- Limit the construction of structures inside the levees to wildlife



observation platforms, decks, boardwalks, pedestrian bridges and access ramps. Design structures inside the levees to meet all applicable codes.

- Develop a clearinghouse for sharing scientific studies and findings. Use this information to collectively establish best practices for restoration, operations and maintenance in Rio Grande Valley State Park and the watershed.

excite

- Make entrances to the Bosque exciting. Design arrival experiences that emphasize the passage to the River area. Treat the Bosque/Urban interface as a transition zone that connects, contrasts, and celebrates the patterns of the urban and natural environments.
- Showcase restoration efforts with consistent interpretive signage and technology.
- Create informative and reliable entrance experiences with consistent wayfinding and directional signage, amenities and monuments.
- Provide new recreation, education, and conservation opportunities along both sides of the river and Bosque that will serve citizens and visitors of all ages and abilities
- Provide new compelling ways for people to experience the river (i.e. boardwalks, pedestrian bridges and wildlife observation platforms).
- Develop a dynamic digital education program for the river and Bosque that educates about history/culture/environment, and allows people to orient themselves and learn by using their phones.
- Incentivize redevelopment/of urban areas near the river and outside of the levees with new amenities and land uses (i.e. cafes, restaurants, housing, retail, parks) that celebrate their proximity to the River. Complement and connect to existing investments and Rio Grande Valley State Park.
- Promote eco-tourism in Albuquerque and Rio Grande Valley State Park by promoting river-related education/conservation/recreation improvements, and partnering on regional and local hospitality related promotions for health, wellness, and the environment.
- Promote agritourism by referencing the area's agricultural heritage tied to the Rio Grande, partnering with local growers, farmers and food providers, and exploring opportunities for new agriculture-related hospitality, commercial and manufacturing uses within the project area.
- Engage the public and promote Albuquerque and the Rio Grande Vision by using a design competition format for development of high profile elements of the project - such as

pedestrian crossings and wildlife observation platforms. Design criteria (i.e. materials, methods of construction, cost, use of technology) should address project-relevant topics such as sustainability, education, and restoration.

- Start designing and building the first few projects. Engage the public in the process. Partner with other land and water managers to share costs and expertise. Build momentum with a compelling group of projects, and establish a track record of Bosque and river protection.



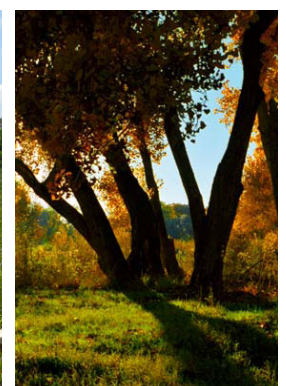
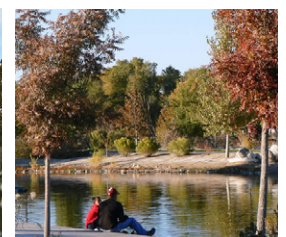
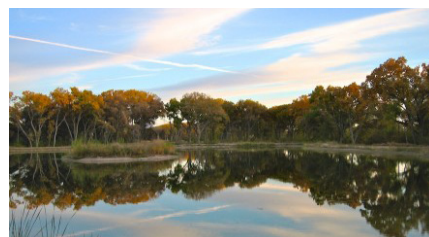
project identity

Rio Grande Valley State Park and the Rio Grande in Albuquerque need to strengthen their identities. In order for people to connect to the river, they need to actually think about it. People are much more connected - physically and emotionally, to the Bosque and its trails, habitat and beauty, than to the river which is unpredictable, out of sight and seemingly out of mind. Rio Grande Valley State Park (RGVSP) is one of the 25 largest urban parks in the United States, but is relatively unknown. RGVSP is a legally established 4,300 acre park smack dab in the middle of our high desert city, providing an unprecedented opportunity for Albuquerque and surrounding communities to improve quality of life with river related recreation, education and conservation activities.

Implementation of the Rio Grande Vision needs to include a coordinated effort to create and promote a project identity related to Rio Grande Valley State Park. A park identity that is collectively supported by multiple jurisdictions, and the land and water managers along the corridor, will have a much stronger and lasting impression on the community and region than will ever occur with the current disjointed approach. Raising the profile of RGVSP will improve opportunities for funding restoration/education/recreation improvements in the park, improve funding for operations and maintenance, draw more visitors to the river communities, increase economic development opportunities along the river corridor, and ultimately connect more people in our community to the river. Preliminary ideas related to Project Identity were explored at the beginning of this project. This work can be found in the Appendix. As a result, the project became known as the ABQ the Plan: the Rio Grande Vision.

compliance and approvals

The Rio Grande Vision is a conceptual plan. As funding becomes available portions of the project, including strengthening of RGVSP's identity, may move forward into design and implementation. Designs will evolve with public input and will also develop within the regulatory context of the Bosque Action Plan and applicable municipal codes and ordinances. Plans for improvements within Rio Grande Valley State Park will require review by the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. Depending on the type and location of improvements, additional reviews and/or approvals might be required from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Open Space Advisory Board, the City of Albuquerque Environmental Planning Commission and other agencies and jurisdictions.



organizational structure

One of the greatest challenges for the Rio Grande and RGVSP is the need for coordinated management and leadership. RGVSP is cooperatively managed by the City of Albuquerque and the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District. If these two entities had management control over all river activities, the likelihood of coordinated management would be greatly increased. However, US government agencies - the Bureau of Reclamation, US Army Corps of Engineers, and US Fish and Wildlife Service, have relative autonomy to undertake activities related to their missions. The State of New Mexico and the Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority are also involved in activities within the Park. The Rio Grande needs an improved and consistent organizational structure to help guide decision-making, coordinate activities, address multiple advocacies, make efficient and smart use of public funds, and expand research and development of best practices for the entire watershed. Some ideas for increasing coordination of activities and improving conditions and operations along the river are listed below:

position RGVSP as the organizing feature for coordination and collaboration

- Advantages: the City of Albuquerque and MRGCD cooperatively manage the Park; all adjacent jurisdictions have a stake in the Park's success; land and water managers have mission-related activities in the park; it is a legally defined, public park that is internationally distinguished by its ecological composition, habitat, scale, beauty, and urban context.
- Disadvantages: the Park is not well known to the public. Marketing and communications would need to promote this.

empower the mid-region council of governments to serve as the regional planning facilitator for the rio grande

- Advantages: the Mid-region Council of Governments already facilitates coordination between governments, creates and shares information, and helps to develop best practices in the immediate region.
- Disadvantages: oversight of the Rio Grande would not be its sole purpose; their existing planning jurisdiction is limited and does not extend to the entire Rio Grande watershed; their role may need to be limited to facilitator/consensus-builder (rather than being a decision-maker) due to their role in regional planning.

create a coalition committee to serve as the facilitator and advocate for the rio grande vision

- Advantages: if comprised of the City of Albuquerque and MRGCD, and other land and water managers and other stakeholders, the coalition can create opportunities for collaboration and sharing of information; all land and water managers have a stake in the success of the park- which might encourage participation.
- Disadvantages: reduced effectiveness can be envisioned due to lack of a government mandate (such as the Endangered Species Act and subsequent regulations) to meet particular standards, lack of a third party to mediate or make decisions, and the volunteer status of participants.

create a rio grande vision foundation to serve as a facilitator, advocate, and fundraiser for the rio grande vision

- Advantages: the Foundation can actively serve as a promoter and fundraiser for the Rio Grande Vision as this would be its sole mission; as a non-profit, the Foundation can apply for a variety of grants related to the Rio Grande Vision improvements; the Foundation can serve local jurisdictions and land and water managers as a clearinghouse for information; the Foundation can fund third party research to help develop best practices for the watershed.
- Disadvantages: the Foundation will need to spend some time raising money to fund itself- which is difficult in New Mexico; success will be in large part determined by Foundation leadership and the ability to gain the trust and cooperation of land and water managers.

create a river authority that oversees and coordinates all activities in the river

- Advantages: creation of a clear chain of command and decision-making; stakeholders will understand their role/ position in the hierarchy of participants; there will be an opportunity to create an organizational structure that is built around the entire watershed, rather than just the river area around Rio Grande Valley State Park.
- Disadvantage: this will require the creation of a new governmental entity - and the accompanying legislative and regulatory work that goes along with that action.



phasing

The following pages include the priority planning and design/construction projects for the Rio Grande Vision. This combination of projects was selected for several reasons:

- There is interest and support for the ideas
- The scopes of work can be defined
- The scales and costs of the projects are diverse
- There is a high likelihood of success (the projects can be completed)
- Successful completion of the work will build momentum for further implementation of the Rio Grande Vision

Phasing ultimately depends on funding (see page 69). There are many funding options available for river-related projects. We recommend that projects included here be prioritized for funding so that implementation can begin.

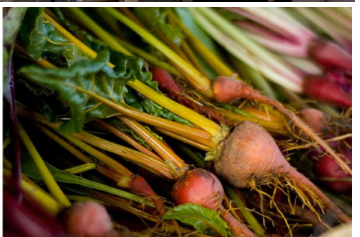
planning

increase coordinated oversight of activities

The rationale for focusing on increased oversight of activities and operations on the Rio Grande is described on the previous page. The scope of work for this planning effort might include further precedent research, evaluation of existing or needed enabling legislation, solution development, ranking of solutions with land and water managers, and then solution refinement/consensus. The product of this effort might be a description of a new oversight entity with accompanying information on how it will work and what it might cost.

prioritize redevelopment of mra properties @ central and the river

The City of Albuquerque Metropolitan Redevelopment Authority (MRA) controls two important properties near Central Avenue and the Rio Grande - the El Vado Motel on the east side of the river near the ABQ BioPark's Aquarium and Botanic Garden, and an undeveloped property on the NW side of the bridge overlooking RGVSP. Successful redevelopment of these properties with private investment might include new uses like restaurants, cafes, retail and housing- all of which would bring more people to the area. The MRA is already working on redevelopment of these parcels. We recommend that the City prioritize redevelopment efforts by providing appropriate staffing, interdepartmental support and incentives for investment that will support the goals of the Rio Grande Vision.





explore partnerships to promote agriculture related businesses

The Rio Grande Vision recognizes agriculture as an important component of the land use composition along the edges of RGVSP - bringing functional value (food production), educational value (history and culture), and the potential for agritourism associated with farm stores, restaurants, and inns. Representatives from both the public and private sectors have already expressed interest in exploring partnership opportunities. The scope of work for this project would likely include further definition and vetting of partnership opportunities, a review of precedents and incentives for this kind of development, confirmation of potential locations, and scoping and refinement of the first partnership agreement.



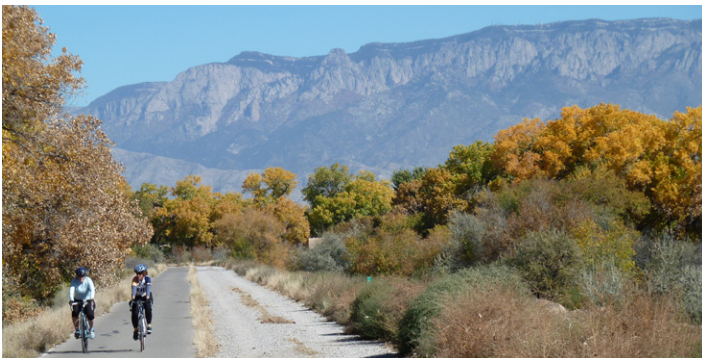
develop a project identity for the river in albuquerque

The rationale for developing a project identity for the river that is related to Rio Grande Valley State Park is described on page 63. We want people to think about the river as an amenity and a destination, and right now, that is generally not the case. The scope of work for this project might involve soliciting information from stakeholders, and then developing a logo, graphics, and other supportive promotional materials that will be used to communicate the project identity.



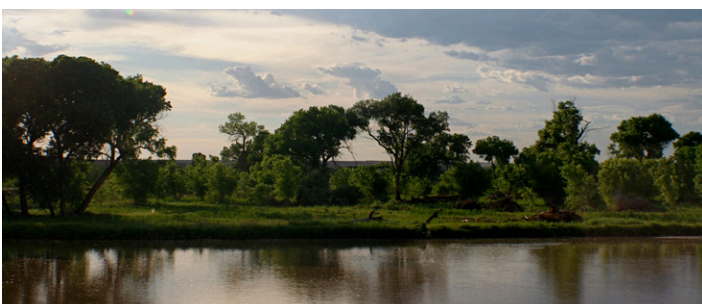
develop public policy associated with implementation of the rio grande vision

Once there is some consensus on the best organizational structure for river oversight and some idea of how the city might want to encourage agriculture and river-related development zones that could contribute to economic development, new policy will need to be written. The scope of work for this effort might include further precedent study, brainstorming on potential policy, conferring with subject matter experts on the best approaches, drafting the policy language, and working with staff to get it approved.



develop a funding plan

Financing of Rio Grande Vision improvements will need to come from multiple sources and competition will be fierce. The City will need to explore options and create a funding plan in order to minimize the impact on the taxpayer. The scope of work related to funding may include thorough research on public and private sector grant and funding prospects (including other land and water managers), writing/editing applications and tracking results, preparing materials for stakeholders, and managing grants.



phasing- design/construction

The Corridor Plan illustrates a wide variety of improvements along both sides of the Rio Grande from Alameda south to I-25 near the Pueblo of Isleta. Priority projects are listed here and in the Appendix, where there is a listing of small individual improvements by zone with estimates of probable construction cost. We want the first phases to have an immediate impact on Connect, Protect and Excite! and to build momentum for implementation of more improvements. Some of the priority projects may take time and effort - pedestrian crossings and new trails on levees for example, but we know that these projects could be transformative in terms of how people experience the river.

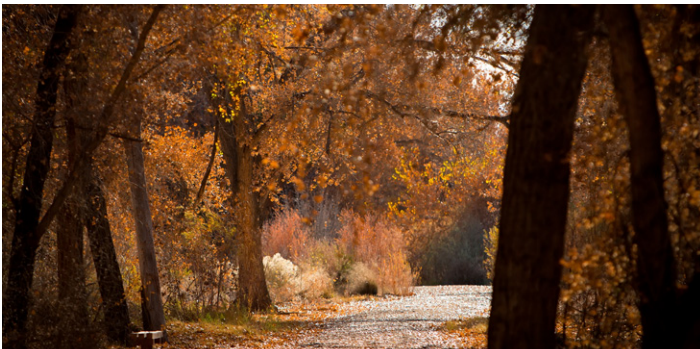
river park @ central

The River Park @ Central is the highest priority project for the Rio Grande Vision (see enlarged illustration on page 46 and visualizations on pages 34-39). The conceptual plan for this multi-phase project leverages existing recreation, entertainment, and conservation infrastructure at the ABQ BioPark Facilities and Rio Grande Valley State Park. Improvements in the area include interpretive exhibits, restoration areas, public trails and boardwalks and a wildlife observation platform; a pedestrian bridge, boardwalks, boat ramps and decks that allow people to access the river, a redesigned, art-filled intersection that welcomes visitors to the river and the ABQ BioPark, and north of Tingley Beach is a restaurant that has lake and Bosque decks, a traditional park, and a parking area with space for food trucks. This project will require coordination and refinement with MRGCD, Bureau of Reclamation, US Army Corp of Engineers and internal City of Albuquerque departments. It will also need to include preparation of a master plan and phasing plan for the area, public outreach, design and approvals, and construction phase services.

west side boardwalk

The Montañito bridge area has the highest potential and capacity for connecting west siders to the Rio Grande. Improvements in this area are designed to encourage connections to the river, provide shared parking for river-related uses, and complement the restoration and education work that has already been done in the area. The Corridor Plan includes an accessible boardwalk that leads to the floodway, and pedestrian improvements near the bridge that connect to existing trails and exhibits (see illustrations on pages 36-37). Should funding become available, the anticipated scope of work for this project would include public outreach, site specific design services, approvals and construction phase services.





trail consolidation and restoration

Trail consolidation and accompanying restoration of abandoned trail corridors and river edges will decrease Bosque erosion, increase contiguous habitat areas and protect river water quality. The project also creates an opportunity for the City to showcase their restoration techniques and educate the public about the Rio Grande and the Bosque. The project might include trail consolidation, prototype trail restoration specifications and techniques, public outreach, design/field verification and approvals, and construction phase services.

access area redevelopment

Creating a hierarchy of reliable, safe and inspirational river/Bosque access areas will immediately improve the experience for visitors. The project might include identifying amenities, coordinating hours with land managers like the County, public outreach, design/approvals, restoration of disturbed areas and construction phase services.

bridge at the south diversion channel

Constructing a bridge at the south diversion channel is the next logical step to facilitating the extension of the Paseo del Bosque to the south. AMAFCA is supportive of this and has provided a conceptual design and cost estimate. The scope of work for this project might include coordination with AMAFCA, Bernalillo County and MRGCD, public and stakeholder outreach, design and approvals, and construction phase services.

wayfinding and signage program

Implementation of a coordinated wayfinding and signage program will immediately improve the ability of visitors to find access areas, orient themselves in and around the river, and use river-related amenities. This also presents an opportunity to convey a project identity for the Rio Grande Valley State Park by providing consistent messaging, information, and aesthetics related to wayfinding monuments and signage designs. The scope of work might include design of wayfinding and signage systems, public outreach, approvals and construction services.

educational technology package

An educational technology package for Rio Grande Valley State Park is an entertaining way to connect a large number of people to the river using mobile devices. Categories for content might include ecology, culture, history and agriculture as well as well as maps. The scope of work for this project would include working with city staff to identify relevant and interesting data sets, making them available for public use, and then facilitating creation of a mobile app by others via a public competition. The scope might also include designing and implementing a signage system with a light footprint for use with the mobile app.



funding

The Rio Grande Vision is a conceptual plan comprised of a variety of improvements that will connect people to the river, protect the Bosque and river, and create new and exciting ways for people to experience the amazing natural environment in our midst. The City of Albuquerque is developing strategies for financing improvements without raising taxes, with the belief that small strategic investments in the future of the community will spur future investments. Over time these projects will improve quality of life for Albuquerque residents, improve our economy, and attract more businesses and jobs to the area.

Funding/financing options depend on the project type and location. There are recreation, education, and conservation-based improvements and the funding sources, including grants, will vary accordingly. We anticipate also targeting agriculture, community health and wellness, and urban redevelopment sources. The locations will also determine funding methods, including opportunities to partner with land and water managers such as the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District, federal agencies, local municipalities, the State of New Mexico and Bernalillo County.

Funding options include:

- City funds: general obligation bonds, revenue bonds, council set aside funds
- Federal grants/ matching funds
- Grants to non-profits (requires establishment of a Rio Grande Vision Foundation or similar entity)
- Partnerships with other agencies
- Public-private partnerships
- Public investments: donation/memorials, corporate sponsorships/organizations, volunteers
- Regional/county funds: transportation improvement program
- State funds: capital outlay funds
- Tax increment development district (TIDD)
- Tax increment financing (TIF)



case studies

The following case studies provide information about other cities that have attempted to take back their rivers and make them a bigger part of people's lives. While none of these examples exactly reflects the condition and presence of the Rio Grande in Albuquerque, the descriptions of the projects and how these communities came together to achieve their goals have been included here in order to provide ideas and context for implementation of the Rio Grande Vision.



City of Boise



South East Queensland, Australia



San Antonio River



Trinity River Corridor, Dallas, TX



Friends of LA River

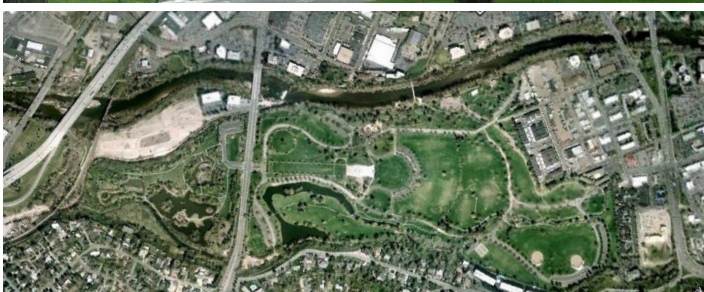
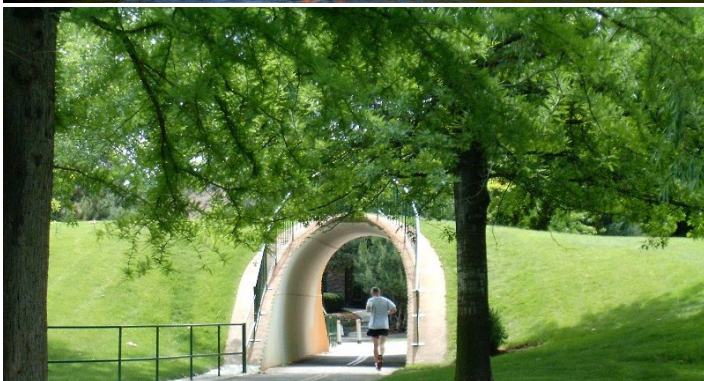
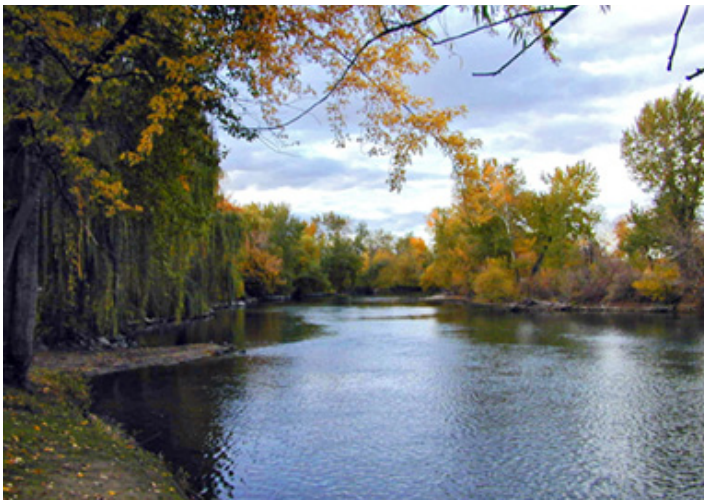
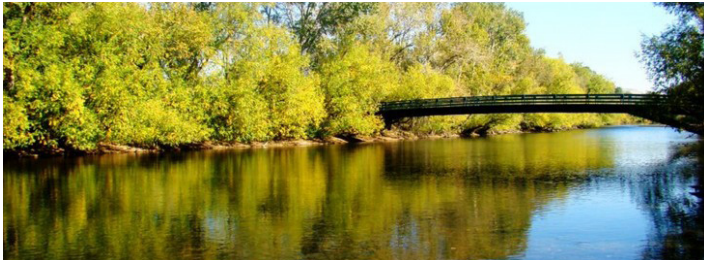




Healthy Waterways - South East Queensland, Australia (Brisbane - capital and largest city)

- Website – <http://healthywaterways.org/HealthyWaterways/Home.aspx>
- Description – “Healthy Waterways is a not-for-profit, non-government, membership-based organization working to protect and improve waterway health in South East Queensland (SEQ). The waterways of SEQ are an integral part of our lifestyle and economy. With a rapidly growing population and increasingly unpredictable climate, the challenge is to protect our precious waterways now, and for future generations to enjoy. Healthy Waterways facilitates careful planning and coordinated efforts at local and regional levels among a network of member organizations from government, industry, research and the community to deliver our shared vision for healthy waterways.”
 - *Vision: “By 2026, our waterways and catchments will be healthy ecosystems supporting the livelihoods and lifestyles of people in South East Queensland, & will be managed through collaboration between community, government & industry.”*
 - *Program: “To support our members & achieve our Vision, the Healthy Waterways Office delivers four key program areas:*
 - *Science and Innovation - provides independent scientific advice, develops innovative decision support tools and ensures that rigorous science underpins Healthy Waterways’ work.*
 - *Ecosystem Health Monitoring Program - delivers one of the most comprehensive marine, estuarine and freshwater monitoring programs in Australia. The program highlights whether the health of SEQ’s waterways and Moreton Bay is improving or declining, and provides insight into the issues impacting on waterway health.*
 - *Water by Design - enables individuals and organizations to achieve sustainable urban water management. The program uses capacity building, develops guidelines, conducts training courses and supports collaborative, science-based policy development to implement best practice water sensitive urban design.*
 - *Communication, Education and Motivation Program - develops and implements initiatives that engage and educate the community in the issue of waterway health, and motivates individual and collective community action.”*
- How they did it: “In the early 1990’s it became apparent that population increases over the next 30 years had the potential to seriously impact the health of the area’s waterways and catchments. Local government councils with the help of the State and Commonwealth governments, worked with community and industry representatives to develop a coordinated, regional strategy. A regional water management plan was published in 2001, which formed the strategy and began the process. This process recognized that the health of this area’s waterways was fundamental to the region’s future social, economic and environmental well-being. Today, they are The Healthy Waterways Network which act as the hub in a network of member organizations and individuals. The Committee consists of representatives from Investing Member organizations (State agencies, all the local governments, industry and community organizations). The Committee advises the Board on the strategic direction and activities for the organizations. The Network members work together under the terms of the Healthy Waterways Network Rules.”
- A major focal point has been the ten-day RIVERFESTIVAL, “developed by Brisbane City Council in 1996 as an initiative for a river-based celebration combined with community engagement. It is now combined with new annual Brisbane Festival. Following a similar pattern to other urbanized river environments around the world, Brisbane had historically turned its back on the river and utilized it primarily as a drain, sewer and gravel mine. ...Thinking shifted and the idea of a festival emerged. Two of the Festival’s signature events are the International Riversymposium, an international conference on river management and Riverfire, South East Queensland’s largest fireworks display.”





City of Boise - Boise River Greenbelt

- Website – <http://parks.cityofboise.org/parks-locations/parks/greenbelt/>
- Project description – “The 22-mile Boise River Greenbelt is one of Boise’s most beloved parks. The tree-lined pathway follows the river through the heart of the city and provides scenic views, wildlife habitat and pedestrian access to many of the city’s popular riverside parks. The Greenbelt also serves as an alternative transportation route for commuters. As you walk along the Boise River Greenbelt, with its towering trees, lush growth and abundant wildlife, you may get a sense that this beautiful setting has always been here for us to enjoy. However, up until the 1960s, the river and its banks served as a convenient dumping ground for trash, industrial waste and raw sewage, and was severely degraded by years of neglect.
- How they did it –
 - “In 1964 the city hired a consultant to write a comprehensive plan and update the city’s zoning ordinance. He suggested that the city acquire land along the Boise River to create a continuous “green belt” of public lands stretching the entire length of the community. Soon, a local grassroots effort to clean up the waterway and create public access to the river corridor began to take hold. This vision caught on and in 1966 and 1967 three small parcels of land were donated to the city to launch this ‘green belt.’
 - In 1968, with public interest and support growing, the first Greenbelt Plan and Guidelines were adopted by the Board of Parks Commissioners. A Greenbelt and Pathways Committee was appointed in 1969 to guide the City of Boise as it worked to develop the Greenbelt, and in 1971 the first Greenbelt Ordinance was adopted which required a minimum setback of 70 feet for all structures and parking areas. The City of Boise continued to slowly piece together a patchwork of land along the corridor using several methods of acquisition including purchase, exchange, leasing and receiving donations of property by individuals, civic groups and corporations.
 - Today, the Greenbelt is maintained by the Boise Parks & Recreation Department. We work closely with land owners and other public agencies to expand and improve the existing pathway.”
- Additional Foundation support
- In 1987, the 501-c(3) nonprofit Boise River Trail Foundation was created to provide trails bridging city and county jurisdictional boundaries. The Boise River Trail Foundation was succeeded in 1988 by the Foundation for Ada/Canyon Trail System (FACTS). The Boise River Trails Coalition (BRTC) then brought together a larger constituency.

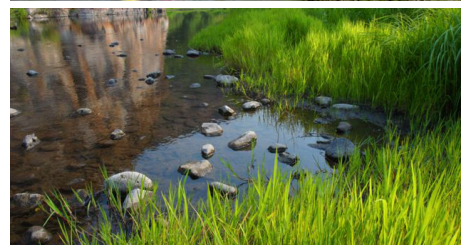
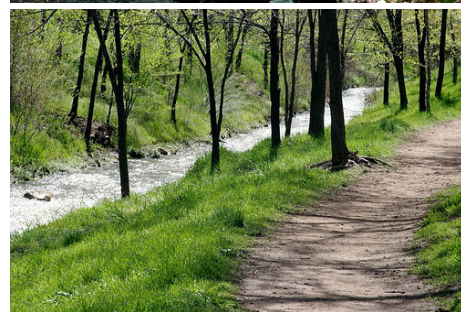
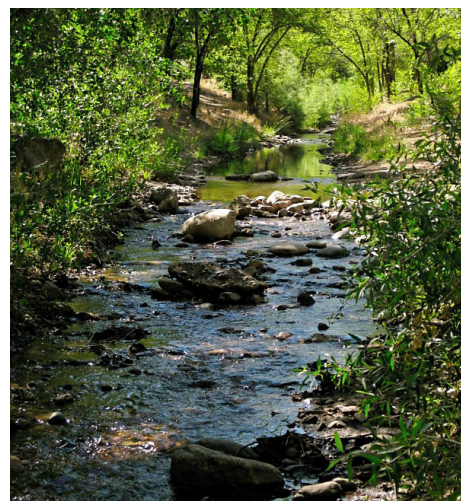


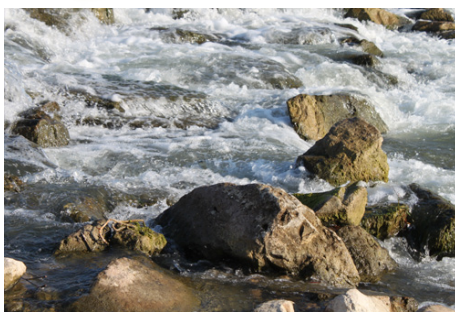
Santa Fe Water Fund - Nature Conservancy effort

- Website: <http://www.nature.org/our-initiatives/regions/northamerica/unitedstates/newmexico/howwework/santa-fe-water-fund.xml>
- Project description: "Much of the city's water supply is surrounded by the Santa Fe National Forest and two main reservoirs could be rendered useless if a catastrophic fire swept through the area. Large fires not only wreak havoc on our forests but also have an impact on the health of our watersheds. In September 2010, the Conservancy partnered with the Santa Fe National Forest to bring forest experts from Mexico, Chile and Guatemala to New Mexico, and hone their on-the-ground fire management skills."
- How they paid for it: "City and forest officials, assisted by Congress, rallied around a 4-year, \$7 million project to avoid this worst case scenario by cutting and removing many of the overgrown trees near the reservoirs, but Laura [McCarthy, director of government relations for the Conservancy in New Mexico] saw the need for a long term and sustainable approach to protect the city's drinking water. Working with Santa Fe's City Council, Laura and the Conservancy helped put together a "water fund" that will use a small amount of money from the community's water users to pay for continuing restoration efforts in the watershed. 'Over the next 20 years we are looking at an estimated \$4.3 million to ensure this forest remains healthy,' said Laura. 'Compare that with the estimated costs of Cerro Grande-type fire in this watershed of over \$20 million and this approach makes a lot of financial sense.'"
- Broader Impacts: The success the Santa Fe Water Fund has been noticed by larger municipalities and cities like Denver are using this framework as way to protect their water supplies.
- Inspiration for Santa Fe Water Fund: came from a project in Quito, Ecuador where the local government partnered with the Conservancy to ensure high water quality for over 1.5 million people.

Santa Fe Watershed Association

- Website: <http://www.santafewatershed.org/>
- Established in 1999, the Santa Fe Watershed Association works to return the Santa Fe River to a living river, from Lake Peak to the Rio Grande, balancing human uses with natural resource protection within the Santa Fe River watershed.
- The Santa Fe area faces the ongoing danger of catastrophic fire in our overgrown upper watershed, above the City drinking supply reservoirs. Management of the forests that safeguard the reservoirs has been an important theme for the Watershed Association, but in the past few years we have given new attention to the middle and lower stretches of the river. In particular, we are advocating restoration of consistent flow to the river to support vegetation and wildlife habitat, while recharging the groundwater. We are striving to create a sense of responsibility and common interest among all residents of the watershed. Additionally, our education programs have provided opportunities for locals to experience the Santa Fe River and its watershed through both school and public programs. Programs are designed to highlight a variety of ecosystems and explore ways that humans impact water and water impacts humans.



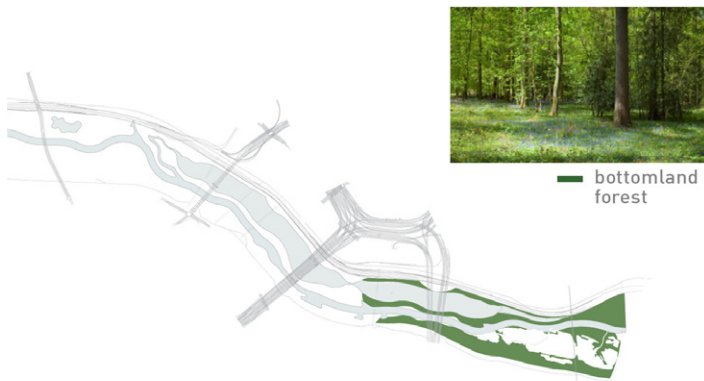
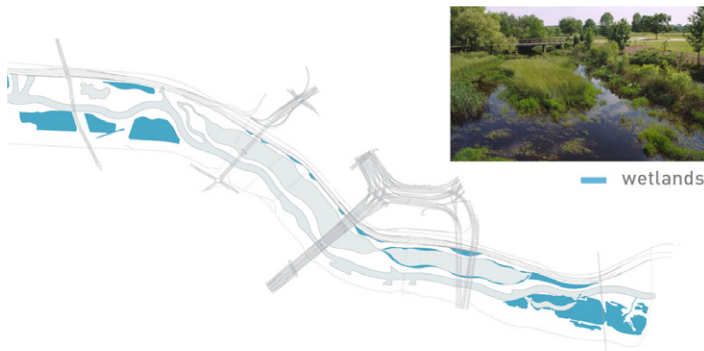


San Antonio San Antonio River Improvements Project

- Website – <http://www.sanantonioriver.org/>
- Overall – “The San Antonio River Improvements Project (SARIP) is a \$358.3 million on-going investment by the City of San Antonio, Bexar County, San Antonio River Authority (SARA), the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and the San Antonio River Foundation in flood control, amenities, ecosystem restoration and recreational improvements along 13 miles of the San Antonio River from Hildebrand Avenue south to Loop 410 South. Throughout the project, SARA will provide project and technical management, as well as overall project coordination between the project partners. SARA will also conduct on-going operation and maintenance activities when the project is completed.”
- How they did it – Community-led effort for restoration project formed City committee of stakeholders and interested parties and City authority formed a foundation for additional private funding.
 - *San Antonio River Improvements Project* - “A concerted community effort to revitalize the river began in 1998 when Bexar County, the City of San Antonio and SARA created the San Antonio River Oversight Committee. The 22 civic and neighborhood leaders appointed to the committee were given the responsibility of overseeing the planning, design, project management, construction and funding necessary to complete the project. In addition, the committee was charged with providing an open public forum for citizen input into the project’s development. The Oversight Committee meets monthly and is co-chaired by former mayor Lila Cockrell and architect Irby Hightower.”
 - *Foundation* - <http://www.sariverfoundation.org/> - from their website – “OUR HISTORY - Established in 2003 by the San Antonio River Authority, the San Antonio River Foundation was created to help raise funds for river improvements beyond those allocated through government funds. Improving the San Antonio River is an ambitious project that is more than just changing the river’s channel and re engineering the river to its natural state. The San Antonio River Foundation plays an integral part in the restoration and revitalization process by supporting educational and community awareness activities along the River as well as creating enhancements that complement the natural beauty of the river. Even with the range and scope of the governmental entities involved in the improvement project, the existing funding cannot accommodate everything and that’s where the River Foundation comes in; raising private funds to enhance the river improvements and fully engage the community with the river.
 - *San Antonio River Authority, Leaders in Watershed Solutions* - <http://www.sara-tx.org/> - from their website – “In 1917, the voters of Texas, recognizing the necessity of developing and conserving the State’s water resources and inspired by devastating floods of 1913 and 1914, passed a Constitutional amendment allowing the Legislature to create special purpose political subdivisions of the State to serve regional areas, generally coincidental with river basins and to be generally known as river authorities.... SARA, created in 1937, is one of many such active river authorities in the State of Texas. Its jurisdiction covers 3,658 square miles - all of Bexar, Wilson, Karnes and Goliad Counties.”







Trinity River Corridor Project Dallas, Texas

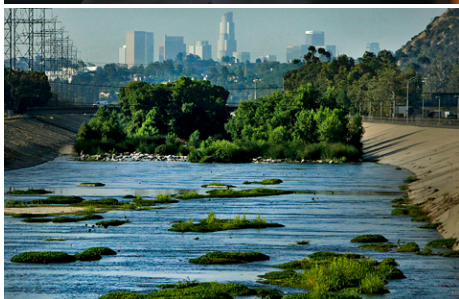
- Website – <http://www.trinityrivercorridor.com/index.html>
- Trinity River Corridor Project Implementation
 - *“The Trinity River Corridor Project is the most complex and the largest urban development effort undertaken by the City of Dallas. This multi-generational project provides critical flood protection, transportation improvements, recreational amenities, environmental restoration/preservation, and economic development for the Trinity River Corridor which covers 20 miles or 10,000 acres. Implementation of the project is in accordance with the Trinity River Corridor Project Balanced Vision Plan. - Sarah Standifer, Assistant Director*
- How they did it - *“The Trinity River Corridor has always represented the greatest challenge and greater opportunity to redefine the City of Dallas. For years, the Trinity River has been a barrier within our community, separating northern and southern Dallas. Utilizing an extensive public participation process, the Trinity River Corridor Citizens Committee fulfilled its charge from the Mayor and City Council to develop a vision of what the Corridor could become. That vision provided the parameters for the plan and work program that is presented [on this website].”*



Oklahoma - Oklahoma City River

- Website – City of Oklahoma: <http://www.okc.gov/maps/index.html>
- Project description: “MAPS (Metropolitan Area Projects) is Oklahoma City’s visionary capital improvement program for new and upgraded sports, recreation, entertainment, cultural and convention facilities. The projects began on December 14, 1993, when voters approved the MAPS sales tax, and were completed on August 17, 2004 with the dedication of the Ronald J. Norick Downtown Library. It is believed Oklahoma City is the first city in the country to undertake a public facility enhancement project of this size.”
- How they paid for it: “MAPS was funded by a temporary one-cent sales tax approved by city voters in December 1993, and later extended an additional six months. The tax expired on July 1, 1999. During the 66 months it was in effect, over \$309 million was collected. In addition, the deposited tax revenue earned about \$54 million in interest. That’s being used for MAPS construction, too.”
- How they did it: “The Mayor appointed a mandated 21-member citizen oversight board shortly after voters approved the projects. The board reviews project components including financing and site location and then makes recommendations to the City Council. The MAPS board led the public review process for the MAPS Master Plan which the Council approved on February 14, 1995. The board was dissolved on June 22, 2004. Day to day operations are handled by the MAPS office, whose staff members are all City employees.”
- River project: “The “Core-to-Shore” project was created to relocate I-40 one mile south and replace it with a boulevard to create a landscaped entrance to the city. This also allows the central portion of the city to expand south and connect with the shore of the Oklahoma River. Several elements of “Core to Shore” were included in the MAPS 3 proposal approved by voters in late 2009.” (wikipedia: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oklahoma_City). “A 7-mile stretch of the North Canadian River has been transformed into a series of river lakes bordered by landscaped areas, trails and recreational facilities and known as The Oklahoma River.”





Friends of the LA River

(FoLAR) (here, the river itself is of course not a model to aspire to, but the organization that is working under such difficult circumstances)

- Website – <http://folar.org/>
- Mission: “We are a non-profit organization founded in 1986 to protect and restore the natural and historic heritage of the Los Angeles River and its riparian habitat through inclusive planning, education and wise stewardship.”
- Project description: “Once home to steelhead and grizzlies, the Los Angeles River meandered through wetlands, marshes, willow, alder and sycamore, providing desperately needed water for the region. Now running over 50 miles long – from the suburbs of the San Fernando Valley to the ocean in Long Beach – the Los Angeles River flows through 14 cities and countless neighborhoods. When the Army Corps of Engineers initiated a flood control project in the late 1930’s, they began the process of paving 80% of the River, creating the world’s largest storm drain. Over the ensuing decades, the River that had been the sole water supply for the City of Los Angeles before the Los Angeles Aqueduct was completed in 1913 almost disappeared from public consciousness. With the cement came a perceptual shift: the River no longer existed. Instead, it was a ‘flood control channel,’ a no-man’s land, surrounded by fences and signs.”
- Goals:
 - 1. Restoring the L.A. River’s natural habitat
 - 2. Developing recreational & commuter bikeways, pedestrian paths & horse trails on the riverbanks; as well as places for canoeing & kayaking in the River
 - 3. Applying flood-protection technologies that emphasize the restoration of a healthy ecosystem
 - 4. Reforesting & re-vegetating the River’s watershed to control seasonal flooding & debris flow
 - 5. Creating educational programs which bring students to celebrate & study the River & to explain the importance of the River, its tributaries & watershed
 - 6. Fostering efforts to monitor & improve water quality in the River & its tributaries, & to control toxic pollution from dumping & storm drains
 - 7. Coordinating community-based clean-ups & graffiti removal along the River in cooperation with other groups & agencies
 - 8. Creating an LA River Conservancy to coordinate public management of the River, to enact I&U ordinances & zoning laws & to manage development in the riparian corridor
 - 9. Placing the LA River bridges on the National Historic Registry, thus protecting & enhancing their historic & aesthetic value
 - 10. Encouraging appropriate uses of reclaimed water for irrigation & recharge of aquifers, thus promoting sustainable development.”
- Accomplishments: “key in modifying original [Los Angeles County Drainage Area (LACDA)] plans, and led to the creation of the Los Angeles and San Gabriel Rivers Watershed Council, a principal forum for discussion of the Rivers’ future); Successfully mobilizing efforts to create a community park at the Cornfield Yards — a 30-acre parcel of land between Chinatown and the Los Angeles River, which had been slated for warehouse development...; and winning the battle to create a State Park at Taylor Yard — a 220+ acre former railroad yard with more than 2 miles of living riverfront.”



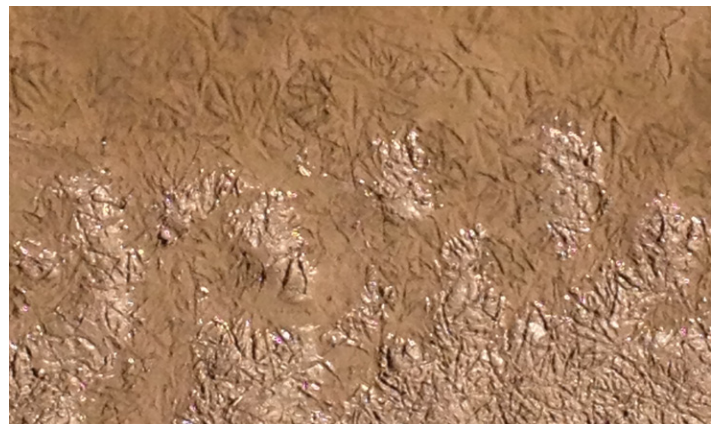
conclusion

The Rio Grande Vision is a conceptual plan comprised of a variety of improvements that will connect people to the river, protect the Bosque and river, and create new and exciting ways for people to experience the amazing natural environment in our midst.

The implementation strategy defines the next steps. As funding becomes available, the Rio Grande Vision will be used as a guide to create schematic designs of strategic areas and to initiate economic and environmental projects related to the Rio Grande. Public outreach will be an important part of the process, as will solicitation of recommendations and approvals from stakeholder agencies and advisory groups. Implementation will occur within the regulatory context of the Bosque Action Plan, and will include restoration projects in association with access, recreation and education projects as described in this document.

The City of Albuquerque looks forward to these next steps and to continuing its cooperative management of Rio Grande Valley State Park with MRGCD. The Rio Grande Vision was developed with extensive oversight by the City of Albuquerque Open Space Division. The corridor plan and implementation strategy are aligned with the values and ethics that have been applied to management and operations of Rio Grande Valley State Park since its establishment in 1983.

The first projects will be important, and there are many possibilities to choose from. The City is committed to following the required procedures, and involving the public in the definition of these first projects. Using the Rio Grande Vision as the guide, the City will mobilize its internal and consultant resources to apply both critical and creative thinking to the planning and design of new amenities in the river corridor in a manner that will Connect, Protect and Excite!



appendix

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preliminary ideas on projects + costs.....p. v

project identity.....p. xvi

maps + graphics.....p. xxix



summary of the visioning process

project purpose - bringing the river into our daily lives

The purpose of the Rio Grande Vision was to explore ways to connect Albuquerque to the river and make it an integral part of our lives while protecting the spectacular amenity and resource that flows through the City. The outcome – the Rio Grande Vision Plan, is a conceptual plan and visioning document that identifies ideas and makes recommendations for river-related public and private initiatives at both planning and design levels. The conservation, education and recreation initiatives listed in the Rio Grande Vision Plan reflect a snapshot in time – identifying a wide variety of planning and design ideas that will connect, protect and excite the community. Ideally, the Rio Grande Vision will serve as a reference for future planning and design projects along the river and inside Rio Grande Valley State Park.

This Appendix provides project background and new information on public comment that is not discussed in the Rio Grande Vision. The intent of this Appendix is to provide context around the completion of the Rio Grande Vision Plan.

time line

The visioning process was comprised of public outreach, research and analysis, concept development and development of an implementation strategy. A narrative of project milestone and events is included below.

2011

The genesis of the idea for river and Bosque enhancements came from the City of Albuquerque's Mayor Richard J. Berry, who began a conversation with the community about the river in 2011 - looking for ideas and information on preferences for improvements to the river corridor and Rio Grande Valley State Park. These ideas became part of ABQ the Plan. In November, The City issued a Request for Proposals for River Corridor Improvements and Dekker/Perich/Sabatini was awarded the contract.

2012

In August 2012 planning consultants began public outreach and research and analysis work on the Rio Grande Vision Plan. Project information was available by September 2012 on two different websites – the City of Albuquerque website and a separate project website www.riograndevision.com. Steering and technical committees provided feedback and served as resources to the project from September to December of 2012. The Rio Grande Vision Research and Analysis Report was published in November 2012. Public meetings held in October 2012 solicited information and opinions about the river, and solicited opinions on the preliminary analysis of existing conditions. In December 2012 public meetings were held to solicit opinions regarding concepts for improvements in the Bosque and along the river.

2013

Over the winter of 2013, the planning team revised their concepts for improvements and developed implementation recommendations, and in May 2013, the Rio Grande Vision was posted on the websites for review. Over the summer of 2013, the City received public feedback on the Rio Grande Vision, and it was mixed. Many people shared their concerns about proposed improvements having a negative impact on the Bosque and river environments. Over the summer, the Rio Grande Vision was revised in response to public comment and at the end of August 2013, a revised Rio Grande Vision was posted to the project websites. The primary changes included removal of the more controversial ideas, like viewing towers in the Bosque, and the addition of more language related to conservation, restoration and compliance with existing regulations like the Bosque Action Plan.

While the City was considering public comment on the Rio Grande Vision Plan and the consultants were revising the document, the City set aside funds for design and implementation of the first project – Rio Grande Valley State Park Improvements, between Central Avenue and I-40. Work on this separate project started in July 2013, and a public meeting to solicit comment on preliminary ideas for enhancements was held on September 4th. Meeting attendance was over 200, with many vocal attendees present to protest the Rio Grande Vision Plan. The project team for Rio Grande Valley State Park Improvements took documented comments on the Rio Grande Vision Plan and provided these to City staff.



summary of public comment on the rio grande vision

The City has documented public comment throughout the Rio Grande Vision process. Public comment was received during the fall 2012 steering and technical committee meetings, during October and December 2012 public meetings, during meetings of the Open Space Advisory Board in summer 2013, during the September 4, 2013 meeting on Rio Grande Valley State Park Improvements, and via mail, email and the City's website. Additionally, as part of the October 2013 election process, the Albuquerque Journal conducted a poll to reveal public opinion about proposed improvements to the Bosque and the Rio Grande. The project team has considered all of the conversations and comments about the Rio Grande Vision Plan during deliberations related to document revisions. Below is a summary of public comments.

on-line surveys

The information below reflects relevant data collected from the ABQ the Plan website surveys from August 2012 to March 2013. Please note that these were not scientific surveys, but they were used as a means to collect public input.

• Online Survey: ABQ the Plan

There was an initial survey conducted in August of 2012 that asked for a ranking of potential projects. 1,173 Responses were received. Rio Grande Enhancements were among the top 5 projects, which also included Bus Rapid Transit, Paseo del Norte and I-25 Interchange, 50-Mile Loop, Route 66 Improvements.

• Online Survey: Rio Grande Vision

Another on-line survey focused on the river corridor. This survey asked locals how they currently access the river and Bosque and what improvements they'd like to see. 489 responses were received.

- Where to you live in relationship to the river? Results: 58% said within driving distance.
- Which amenities (some existing, some potentially in the future) appeal to you most? (Check all that apply): Results (top selections): trails for cyclists and walkers, boardwalks and paths, dining, boat rental.

- Where would you like to see these amenities? Results: Top selection was All of the Above (Alameda, Montañito, Central, Hispanic Cultural Center, South Valley).
- Comments: Add shops or food along the Rio Grande / Preserve the Bosque and keep it clean / Protect the Bosque/ Do not touch the Bosque at all/ Promote enjoying the outdoors with biking, running, shopping, kayaking, paddle boarding / Get people outdoors and staying healthy and fit. / Create a tourist attraction for out of staters / keep the younger generation here.

general themes

Reviewing all of the public involvement activity results, a set of themes emerged that describes the attitudes and beliefs of the participants. These themes are presented below.

• support for access and education

Overall, there was support for access improvements, especially for those with disabilities who might have difficulty in getting to the river. Many people expressed support for creating more environmental stewards, especially for our youth who will care for the Bosque in the future.

• support for conservation and recreation

There was widespread support for conservation and restoration of the Bosque, as well as for use of environment best practices.

• support for amenities

Below is a summary of project elements that initially were most favored by the public.

Boardwalks & paths
Boat/kayak access
Improved parking
Education components
Interpretive trails
Public Art (at access points)
Trails for cyclists & walkers
Wayfinding & signage
Bike Rental
Boat Rental



- **concerns that the ideas in the Rio Grande Vision will overdevelop the Bosque**

There was public concern about overdeveloping the Bosque and the impacts it might have on the ecosystem.

- **concerns about the timing of the environmental study in relation to implementation**

There was some concern about conducting the environmental study in concert with project design. Some felt that the environmental science should be done prior to design.

- **concerns that having more people in the Bosque will create problems, like noise, trash and dog waste**

There was concern about the impacts more people would have on the Bosque

- **little or no action**

There were some comments from citizens who wanted very little change in the Bosque. Many comments requested more language regarding conservation and restoration, as well as compliance with the Bosque Action Plan and other review processes. Language related to compliance with the Bosque Action Plan and other governing regulations was added to the RGV Plan in August of 2013.

- **misunderstandings/lack of knowledge about the recommendations**

There was a significant amount of confusion about the planning document itself as well as what was being proposed. This was particularly evident in the comments received over the summer of 2013. This lack of knowledge about the document and recommendations meant that many of the comments were not relevant to the document under consideration

- There was widespread misunderstanding about the document itself, and that it would lead to immediate construction, even though there was language in the document that clearly indicated it was a conceptual plan - a book of ideas and not a set of blueprints.
- There was some confusion about what was being proposed, as people mentioned that they were against having restaurants, grocery stores and hotels inside the Bosque and Rio Grande Valley State Park. The document did not include these proposals.

albuquerque journal poll

On September 12, 2013 an article by John Fleck presented the results of a poll, conducted by the Albuquerque Journal, which asked the question: "Do you support or oppose the city's general proposal to increase access to the Rio Grande and the Bosque, by adding things such as path trails, pedestrian bridges, boardwalks and viewing platforms?" According to the poll, 69% of likely voters supported the idea, and 21 percent were opposed to it

finalizing the vision plan

The last revision of the Rio Grande Vision Plan was made on August 30th 2013 and posted to the project website (www.riograndevision.com). Although public comment on the Rio Grande Vision continues to be received and documented by the City, new information and unique opinions on the visioning document have not been encountered. As of November 4, 2013, the visioning process was considered complete. The City's focus and future public outreach will be focused on projects that evolve from the Rio Grande Vision, starting with the first project - Rio Grande Valley State Park Improvements from Central to I-40.

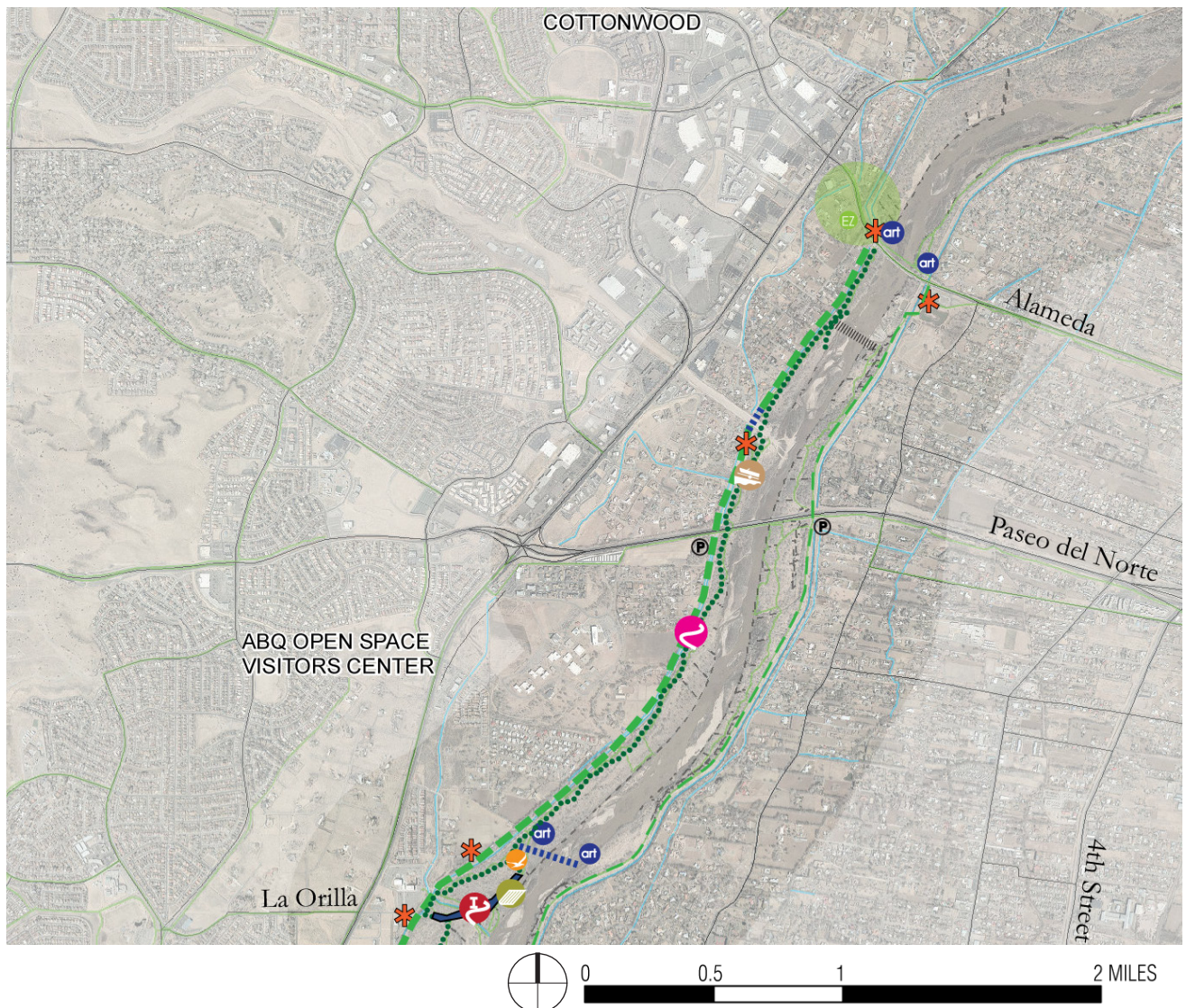




preliminary ideas on projects + costs

The following descriptions represent preliminary ideas for the first improvements and capital costs in each stretch of the river. Funds for monitoring, restoration, maintenance and operations are not listed below, but will be critical to successful implementation of the Rio Grande Vision. These descriptions were created in January 2013.





Implementation

Partnerships: inside Rio Grande Valley State Park (RGVSP) coordinate with the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District (MRGCD), US Bureau of Reclamation (USBR), US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), and the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS); at the diversion dam also coordinate with the Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority (ABCWUA); at arroyo outlets confer with Albuquerque Metropolitan Arroyo Flood Control Authority (AMAFCA); and at Alameda Boulevard and at Paseo del Norte confer with the New Mexico Department of Transportation (NMDOT).

Legislative Districts

- City Council Districts 1, 4 and 5
- County Commission Districts 1 and 4
- State Representative Districts 15, 16, 17 and 23
- State Senate Districts 9, 10 and 13

Other Key Stakeholders

- Villages of Los Ranchos de Albuquerque and Corrales
- City of Rio Rancho
- Pueblo of Sandia
- Open Space Boards and Committees
- Bosque Ecological Monitoring Program (BEMP)
- Neighborhood Associations: Riverfronte Estates, Inc,
- Alameda, North Valley, Alban Hills

Funding Strategies- see page 69



* refer to pages 26-29 for descriptions of map icons

projects + costs

north stretch: alameda to la orilla

West side trails and a new river crossing in this portion of the corridor provide exciting opportunities for improved river access on both sides of the river. A paved path will be located on the west side levee and function much like the Paseo del Bosque on the east side of the river. The path will parallel an improved and consolidated soft surface trail in the Bosque, and connect to the regional bike trail system and existing crossings at Alameda, Paseo del Norte and Montañito. The path will also connect to a new pedestrian/bicycle/equestrian bridge that will cross the river near the City of Albuquerque Open Space Visitor Center. The new bridge and associated wildlife observation platform, boardwalk and interpretive trails will provide visitors on both sides of the river with a new way to experience the Rio Grande and the Bosque.

Details of Initial Phase Improvements

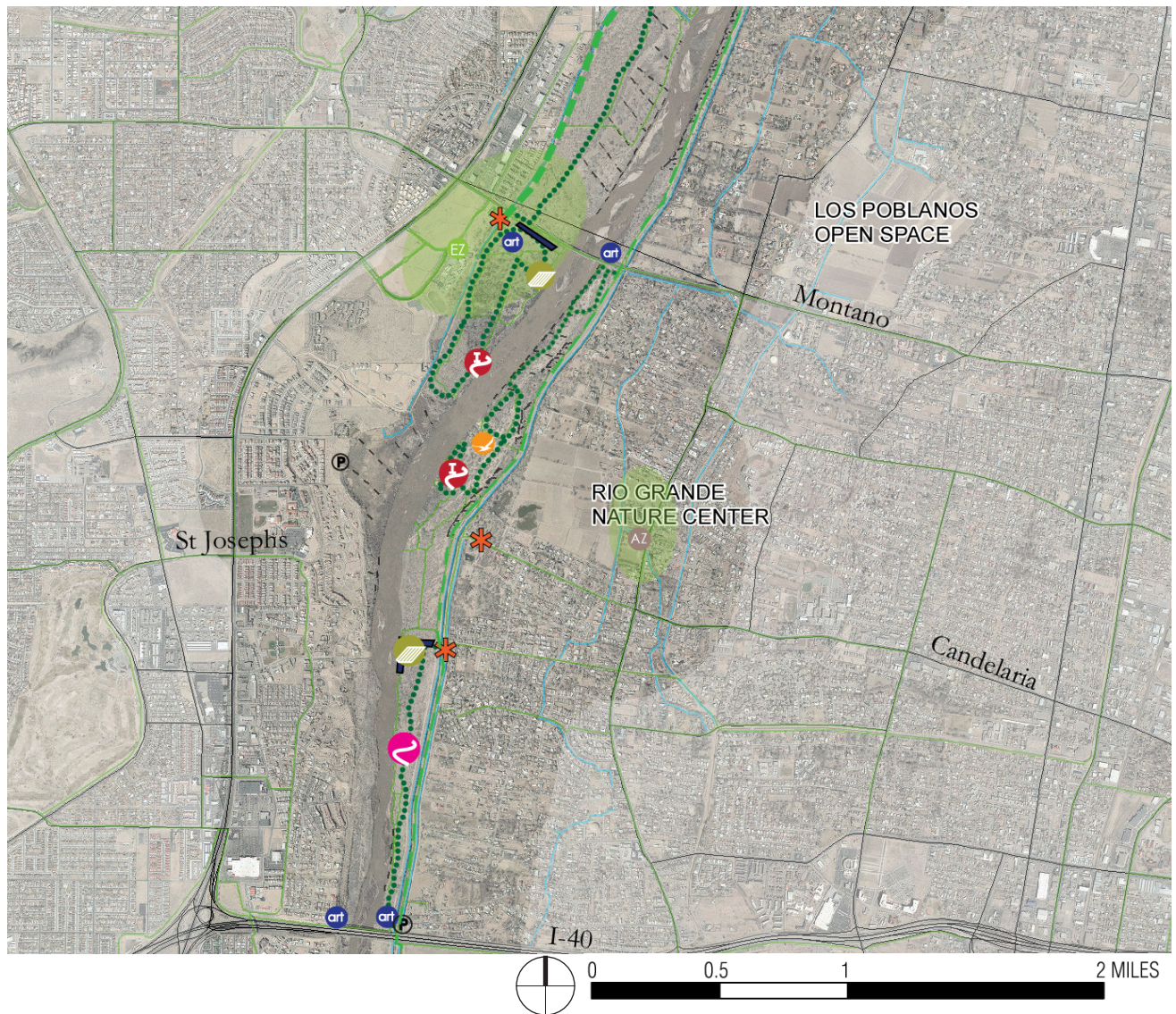
Consolidated trail+ restoration	\$367,500 (2.8 miles)
Jetty jack removal.....	\$15,000 (100 jetty jacks)
Public art at bridge	\$20,000 (2 pieces)
Education package (technology)	\$10,000 (1 package)
Wayfinding and signage package.....	\$20,000 (1 package)
Interpretive trail exhibit.....	\$200,000 (2 trail exhibits)
Boat ramp.....	\$30,000 (1 ramp)
Renovated access area	\$130,680 (3 acres)
New access area	\$435,600 (1 acre)
Wildlife observation platform.....	\$500,000 (1 platform)

total for initial phase..... \$2,074,500
(includes 20% contingency)

Later Phase Improvements

- Pedestrian bridge at arroyo
- Pedestrian river crossing
- Consolidated trail+ restoration
- Trail (hard surface)
- Boardwalk
- Public art packages in Bosque
- Parking area renovation





Implementation

Partnerships: inside RGVSP coordinate with MRGCD, USBR, USACE, and USFWS, and Rio Grande Nature Center State Park; at arroyo outlets coordinate with AMAFCA; and at I-40 coordinate with NMDOT.

Legislative Districts

- City Council Districts 1 and 2
- County Commission District 1
- State Representative Districts 11, 15, 16, 17 and 23
- State Senate Districts 10, 13, 23 and 26

Other Key Stakeholders

- Village of Los Ranchos de Albuquerque
- Open Space Boards and Committees
- BEMP
- Neighborhood Associations: Alban Hills, Rio Grande Boulevard, Alvarado Gardens, Thomas Village, West Bluff, Los Duranes

Funding Strategies- See page 69.



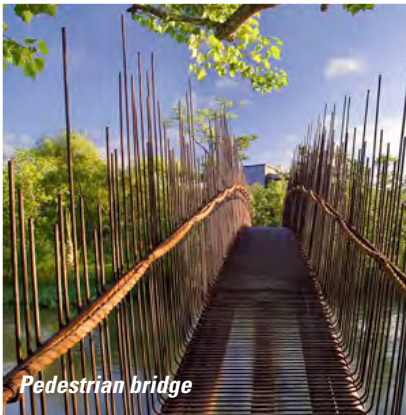
** refer to pages 26-29 for descriptions of map icons*



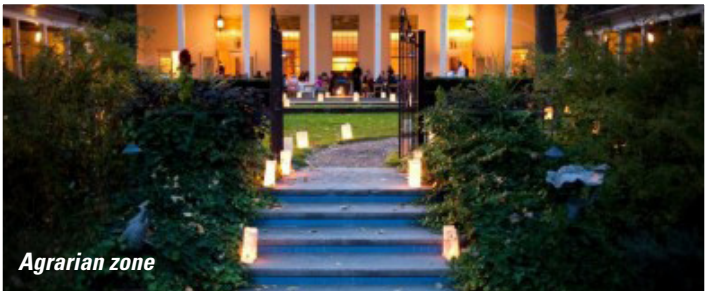
Boardwalk



Art



Pedestrian bridge



Agrarian zone

projects + costs

montaño to interstate 40

Improvements in this area reinforce the education and recreation activities already occurring along the river corridor. At the Montaña trailhead on the SW side of the bridge, new improvements include an accessible boardwalk that extends along the base of the bridge out into the floodway, a consolidated trail loop and interpretive exhibits. In the Bosque, in an area near the Rio Grande Valley Nature Center State Park, new improvements include a wildlife observation platform, interpretive exhibits and a consolidated trail. At the end of Campbell Road, improvements to parking, signage and site furnishings are proposed, as is a new accessible boardwalk and a consolidated trail that will lead visitors from the Paseo del Bosque and the access area to the river.

Details of Initial Phase Improvements

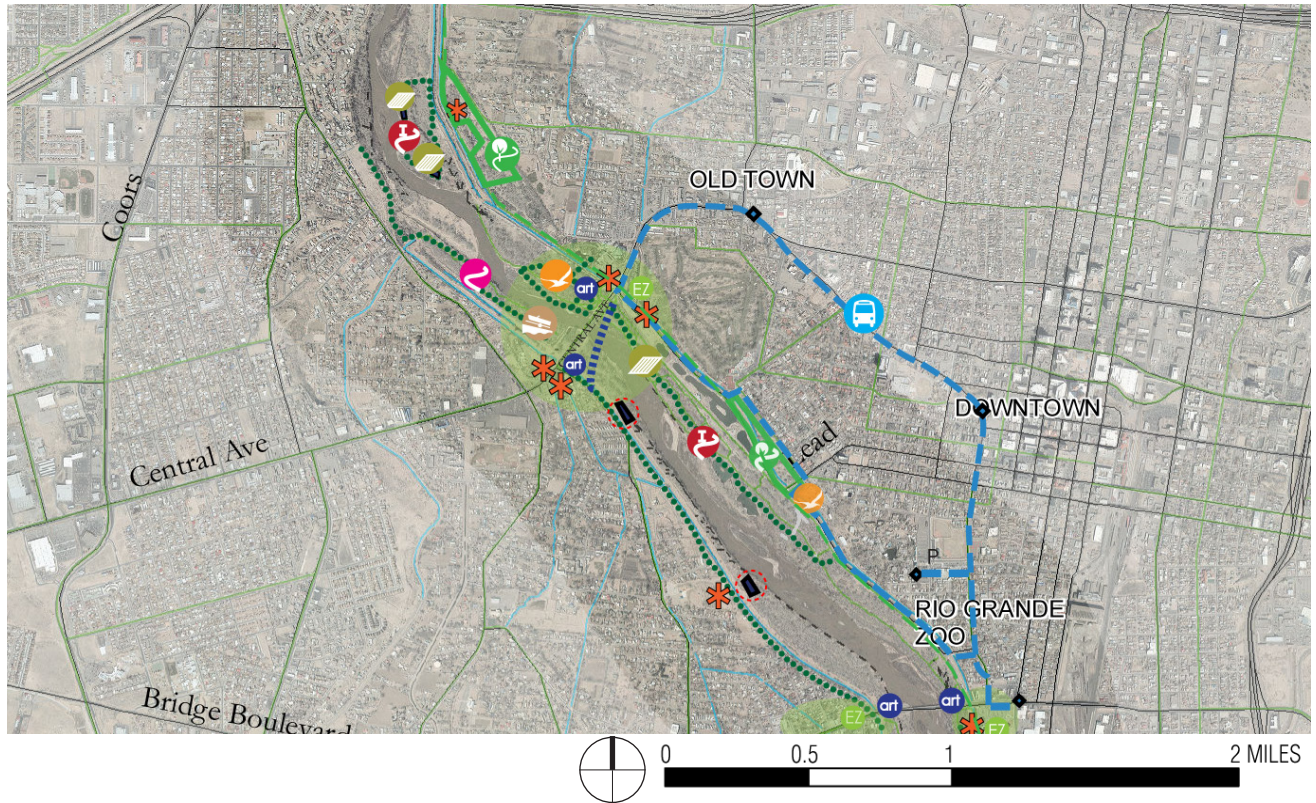
Consolidated trail.....	\$687,125 (5.2 miles)
Jetty jack removal.....	\$10,200 (68 jetty jacks)
Boardwalk.....	\$159,100 (796 linear feet)
Public art at bridge.....	\$40,000 (4 pieces)
Public art package in Bosque.....	\$100,000 (4 packages)
Education (technology) package.....	\$10,000 (1 package)
Wayfinding and signage package.....	\$20,000 (1 package)
Interpretive trail exhibit.....	\$100,000 (1 trail exhibit)
Renovated access area.....	\$26,136 (6/10 acre)
Renovated parking area.....	\$283,140 (1.3 acres)
New access area.....	\$696,960 (1.6 acres)
Wildlife observation platform.....	\$500,000 (1 platform)

total for initial phase.....\$3,159,500
(includes 20% contingency)

Later Phase Improvements

- Trail (hard surface)
- Boardwalk
- Interpretive trail exhibit





Implementation

Partnerships: coordinate with MRGCD, USBR, USACE, and USFWS and Bernalillo County.

Legislative Districts

- City Council Districts 1, 2 and 3
- County Commission Districts 1, 2 and 3
- State Representative Districts 11, 14, 16 and 18
- State Senate Districts 12, 13 and 26

Other Key Stakeholders

- Open Space Boards and Committees
- BEMP
- Neighborhood Associations: Vista Magnifica, Riverview Heights, West Mesa, Pat Hurley, West Old Town, Huning Castle, Reynolds Addition, Barelás, Vecinos del Bosque

Funding Strategies- See page 69.



** refer to pages 26-29 for descriptions of map icons*

projects + costs

central avenue

Improvements in this area expand on the other recreation, education and entertainment opportunities associated with the ABQ BioPark and Rio Grande Valley State Park facilities. Proposed improvements include a new park at the end of Mountain Road at the north end of the ABQ BioPark, which will provide a direct connection to the Rio Grande from Old Town. A new pedestrian crossing south of the bridge and a trail along the levee on the west side of the river between Central and Bridge are also proposed. These two improvements, in association with the Paseo del Bosque will create a 4-mile river trail loop in the heart of the City. Other improvements include wildlife observation platforms near the Rio Grande Botanic Garden and the Rio Grande Zoo, and new art installations, consolidated trails, interpretive exhibits and boat ramps.

Details of Initial Phase Improvements

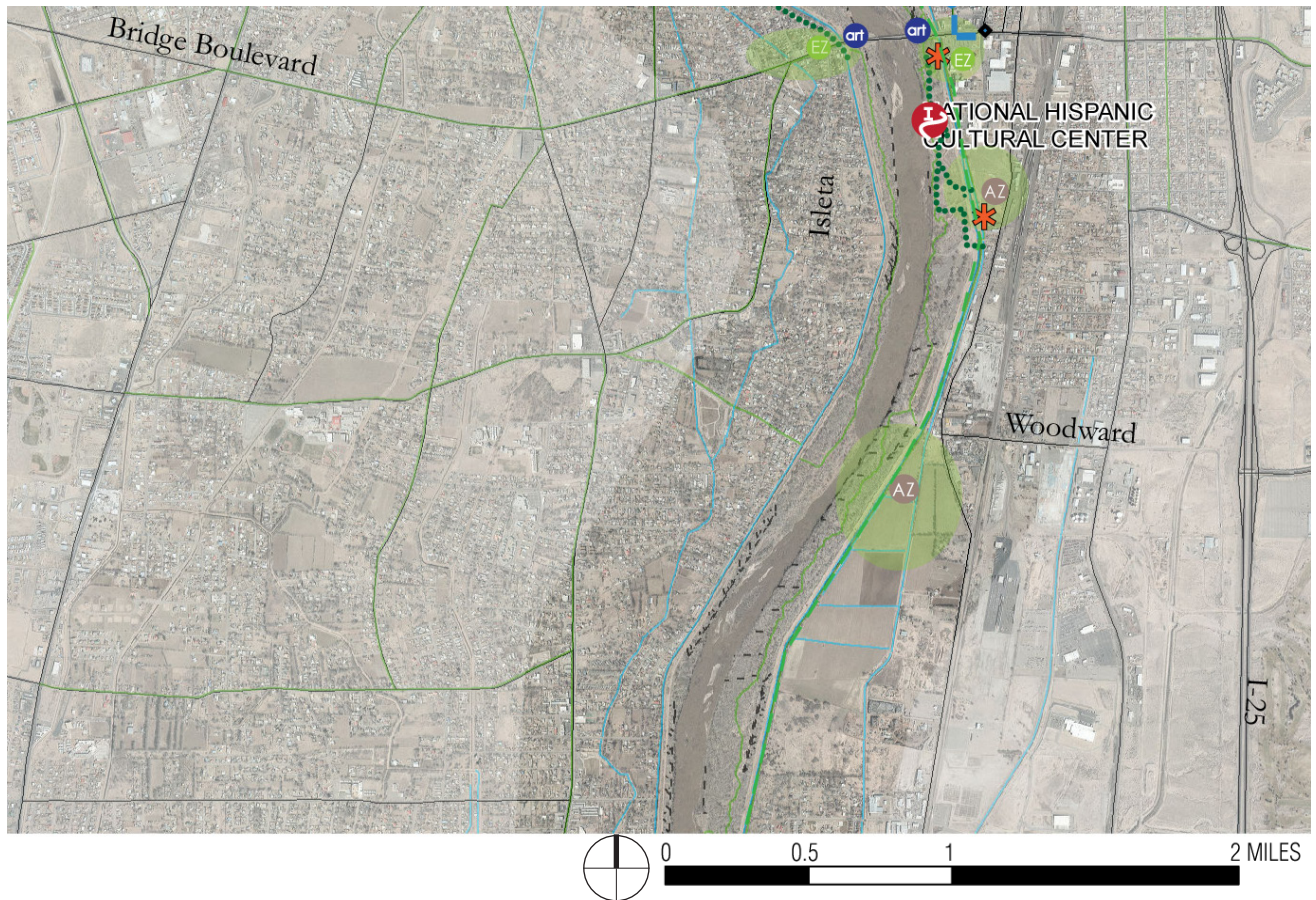
Consolidated trail.....	\$379,425 (2.9 mile)
Jetty jack removal.....	\$7,800 (52 jetty jacks)
Boardwalk	\$45,150 (225 linear feet)
Public art at bridge	\$20,000 (2 pieces)
Public art package in Bosque.....	\$25,000 (1 package)
Education (technology) package	\$10,000 (1 package)
Wayfinding and signage package.....	\$20,000 (1 package)
Boat ramp.....	\$30,000 (1 ramp)
Interpretive trail exhibit.....	\$100,000 (1 trail exhibit)
Renovated access area	\$335,412 (7.7 acres)
New access area.....	\$1,873,080 (4.3 acres)
Wildlife observation platform.....	\$500,000 (1 platform)

total for initial phase.....\$4,015,000
(includes 20% contingency)

Later Phase Improvements

- Pedestrian river crossing
- Wildlife observation platform
- Park (outside levee)
- Consolidated trail
- Trail (hard surface)
- Boardwalk
- Public art packages in Bosque
- Interpretive trail exhibit
- New access area





Implementation

Partnerships: coordinate with MRGCD, USBR, USACE, USFWS, and Bernalillo County.

Legislative Districts

- City Council Districts 2, 3 and 6
- County Commission Districts 2 and 3
- State Representative Districts 10, 12, 14 and 18
- State Senate Districts 11, 12, 14 and 26

Other Key Stakeholders

- Open Space Boards and Committees
- BEMP
- Neighborhood Associations: Baretas, San Jose, South Valley Coalition of Neighborhood Associations

Funding Strategies- See page 69.



** refer to pages 26-29 for descriptions of map icons*

projects + costs

bridge to north of rio bravo

New and improved access points, public art and consolidated trails comprise the primary physical improvements in this area. The intent is to build on public investments, visitation and activities associated with the National Hispanic Cultural Center, Rio Grande Valley State Park and the City's Barelvas Railroad Park.

Details of Initial Phase Improvements

Consolidated trail	\$144,625 (1.1 miles)
Public art at bridge	\$20,000 (2 pieces)
Public art package in Bosque.....	\$100,000 (4 packages)
Education (technology) package	\$10,000 (1 package)
Wayfinding and signage package.....	\$20,000 (1 package)
Interpretive trail exhibit.....	\$100,000 (1 trail exhibit)
New access area.....	\$914,760 (2.1 acres)

total for initial phase.....\$1,571,500
(includes 20% contingency)

Later Phase Improvements

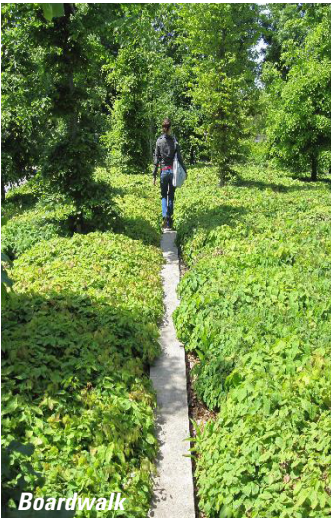
- Jetty jack removal



Agrarian zone



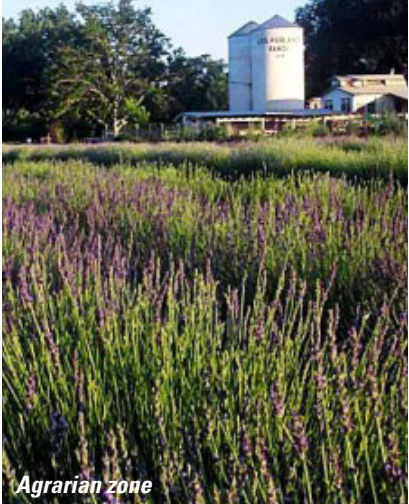
Interpretive trail



Boardwalk



Agrarian zone



Agrarian zone



Eco-Zone



Implementation

Partnerships: within and adjacent to RGVSP coordinate with MRGCD, USBR, USACE, USFWS, AMAFCA, and Bernalillo County; at Rio Bravo Boulevard and I-40 coordinate with NMDOT.

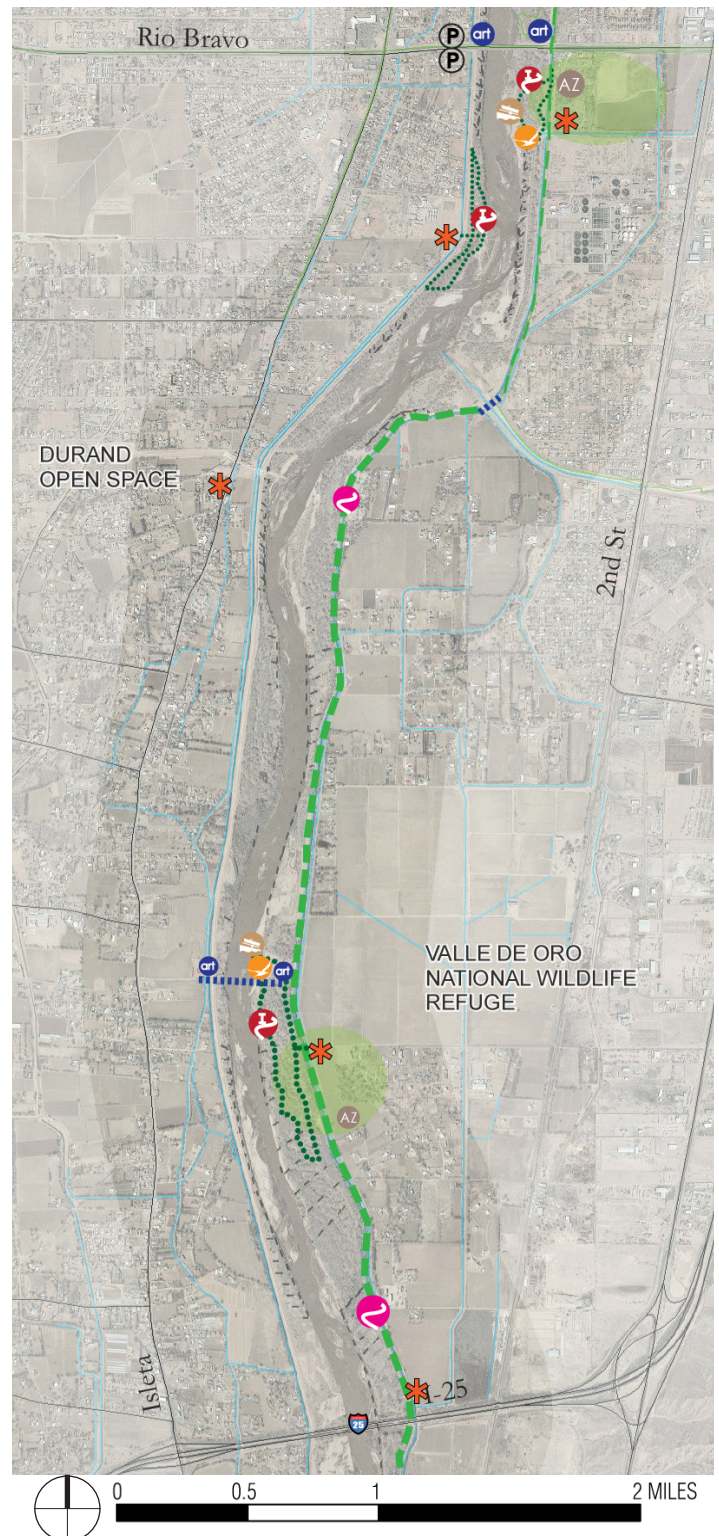
Legislative Districts

- City Council Districts 2, 3 and 6
- County Commission Districts 2 and 3
- State Representative Districts 10, 12, 14 and 19
- State Senate Districts 11, 14, 16 and 29

Other Key Stakeholders

- Pueblo of Isleta
- Open Space Boards and Committees
- BEMP
- Neighborhood Associations: South Valley Coalition of Neighborhood Associations

Funding Strategies- See page 69.



** refer to pages 26-29 for descriptions of map icons*

projects + costs

rio bravo to interstate 25

Improvements in this area of the corridor are focused on improving strategically located public access areas and extending the Paseo del Bosque to the southern boundary of Bernalillo County. Improvements are located near Rio Bravo Boulevard, at the South Diversion Channel, Rio Bravo Park, and Durand Open Space. Additional improvements include a new crossing and improvements at the new Valle del Oro National Wildlife Refuge and a new access area at I-25.

Details of Initial Phase Improvements

Jetty jack removal.....	\$3,450 (28 jetty jacks)
Education (technology) package	\$10,000 (1 package)
Wayfinding and signage package.....	\$20,000 (1 package)
Trail (hard surface)	\$1,800,000 (4.5 miles)
Renovated access area.	\$51,183 (1.2 acres)
New access area	\$1,449,677 (3.3 acres)
Ped. bridge @ S. Diversion Chnl	\$149,500 (1 bridge)

total for initial phase.....\$4,179,500
(includes 20% contingency)

Later Phase Improvements

- Pedestrian river crossing
- Wildlife observation platform
- Consolidated trail
- Boat ramp
- Jetty jack removal
- Public art at bridge
- Public art packages in Bosque
- Interpretive trail exhibit
- Renovated access area
- New access area
- Renovated parking area



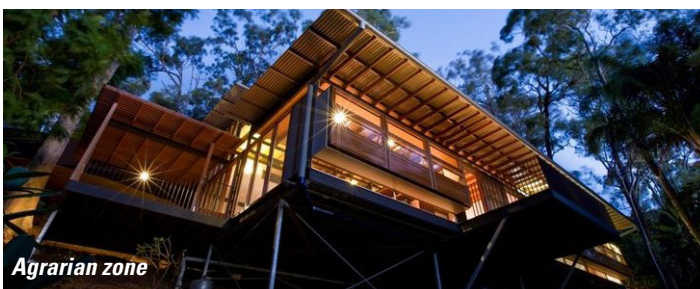
Wildlife Observation
Platform Outside Levee



Pedestrian bridge



Interpretive trail



Agrarian zone



Pedestrian bridge



project identity

The name Rio Grande Vision was established early in the project. City staff and the consultant team agreed that there was a need for a clear concise project title to convey information about the project without defining the outcome. The team was committed to developing inspirational, defensible, site specific solutions with public input and wanted the project title to reflect this approach.

The following pages document some of the research and ideas that were presented during this exercise.

values

connect + protect

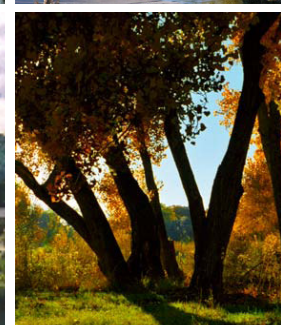
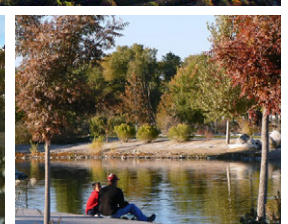
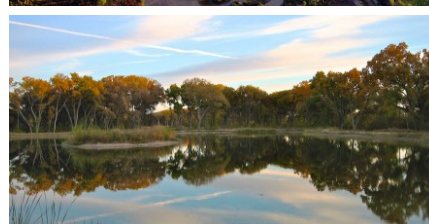
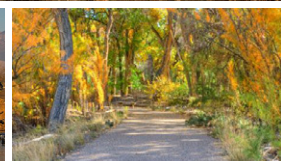
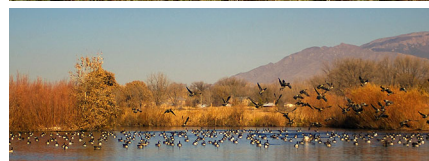
- river to become more of a part of our local communities' daily lives through strengthening community links and public access to the City's waterfront
- become a more frequent destination for our visitors for the River
- improve the river environment and to foster a better understanding of it

strategies

- identify starting points for an inspiring grand vision, both a gateway project and the development of the path relationship along the 20-mile segment of the Rio Grande and its adjacent Bosque, along with the economic and financial road map to get there

project objectives

- better access to river
- environmental stewardship
- excellent quality of life for residents and visitors
- quality recreation and amenities: trails, biking picnic areas, more water and restrooms, overlooks and wildlife viewing, kayaking facilities and access, concerts, outdoor fairs, eco-zones (ecological/economic focused development zones, opportunities for food and recreational vendors)





project identity: titles

project names

- Rio Grande Albuquerque Vision
- Albuquerque Rio Grande Vision
- The Rio Grande Vision
- Vision Rio Grande
- Albuquerque Rio Grande Connection
- The Rio Grande Corridor Plan
- The Rio Grande Improvement Corridor
- The Rio Grande Bosque Plan
- Where Albuquerque meets the Rio Grande
- The Rio Grande Initiative
- The Albuquerque Rio Grande Initiative

bylines

- Connect and Protect
- Protect and Connect
- Its our river
- Its your river
- A river for everybody
- Keep them grand



logos elements to consider

identity symbols

clarity and beauty of symbol

relationship of title to image

reference to tradition

looking forward to modernity

both?



image that symbol evokes



art & craft of graphic



logo shape symbol - government, civic, national parks, trails



graphic precedents

albuquerque/bernalillo logos



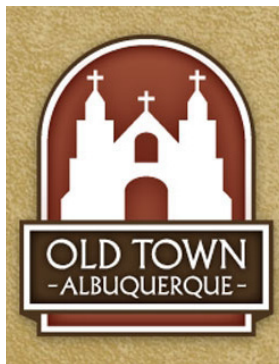
*city of albuquerque seal -
form evokes government*



*old seal -
royalty probably not popular*



*seal form plus tradition -
adobe architecture*



traditional



*modern -
strong identity -
shape and
natural landscape*



*seal form plus tradition -
agriculture*



*traditional looking graphics - old convention
and visitors bureau graphics*



*natural element makes seal
form more subtle*



graphic precedents *new mexico logos*



tradition emphasized



*nm logo -
zia pueblo sun symbol*



tradition abstracted



*seal with nm logo and
geographic elements*



*national trails shape -
simple traditional image*



shape specific to nm state parks



graphic precedents
rio grande logos



A
PREMIER
ART EVENT

*tradition in craft -
identity images*



*(texas) -
government seal - identity
image*



railroad logos

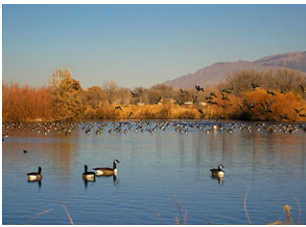


graphic precedents
river logos



**Nuclear Legacy
Liabilities Program**





preliminary proposal - a

old printing style with iconic images (this image for inspiration, see below for description of elements) -

- tradition, craft,
- abstract graphics

revise image to consist of below elements & to match albuquerque geography:

- sky (important aspect of the land of enchantment)
- similar to above
- mountains - similar to above
- skyline - similar to adjacent
- Bosque - similar to adjacent
- river - similar to adjacent
- (no arm and paintbrush)

perhaps mesa similar to adjacent, graphic designer to test (could be too busy)

ALBUQUERQUE
RIO GRANDE



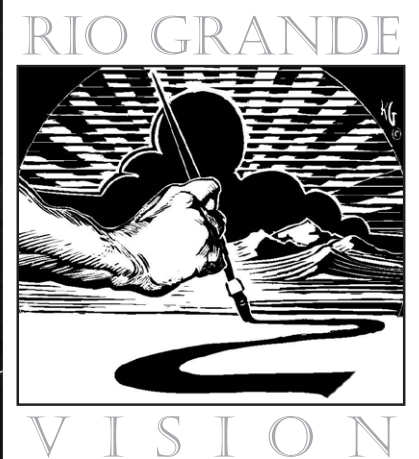
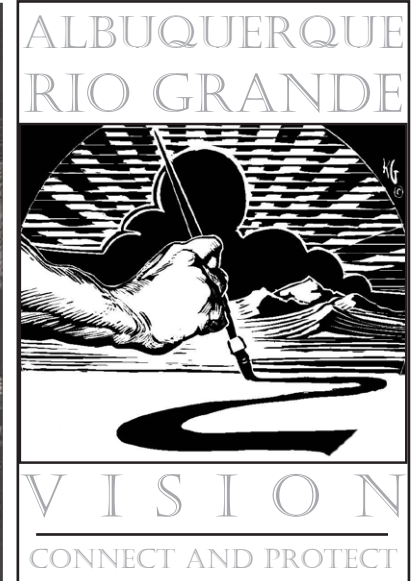
V I S I O N



preliminary proposal a *art style + variations*

art style - woodcut, southwest style

logo variations





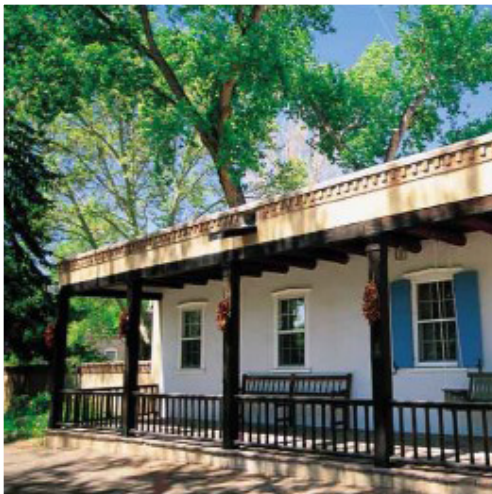
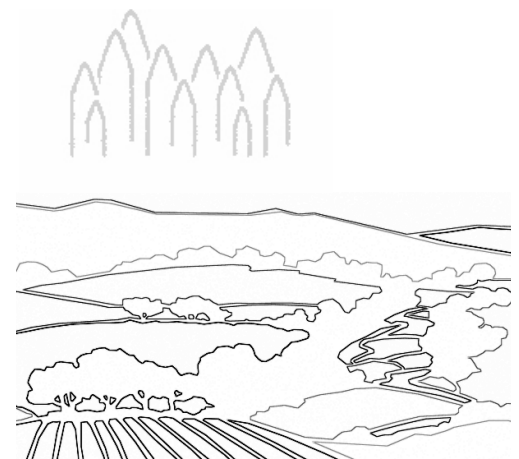
preliminary proposal b

image is modern but abstract, elements contain local identity



revise image to consist of below elements & to match albuquerque geography:

- river - similar to above
- mountains - similar to above
- skyline - similar to adjacent
- Bosque - similar to adjacent, but simpler



preliminary proposal c

traditional approach, art to be in new mexico traditional art style,
shape similar to civic/government circle



revise image to consist of below
elements & to match albuquerque
geography:

- river - similar to above
- mountains - similar to above
- Bosque - similar to adjacent, but simpler
- skyline - similar to adjacent



preliminary proposal c *art style + variations*

art style - southwest



logo variations



maps + graphics

The following maps were initially presented to the public for comment in December 2012. Since then, additions/modifications have been made to more clearly illustrate proposed facilities and convey the intent of improvements in EcoZones. Specific restoration areas are not noted on these maps, but as is discussed in the document, restoration projects will be a part of every phase of implementation. Please refer to the Bosque Action Plan for designated conservation areas.



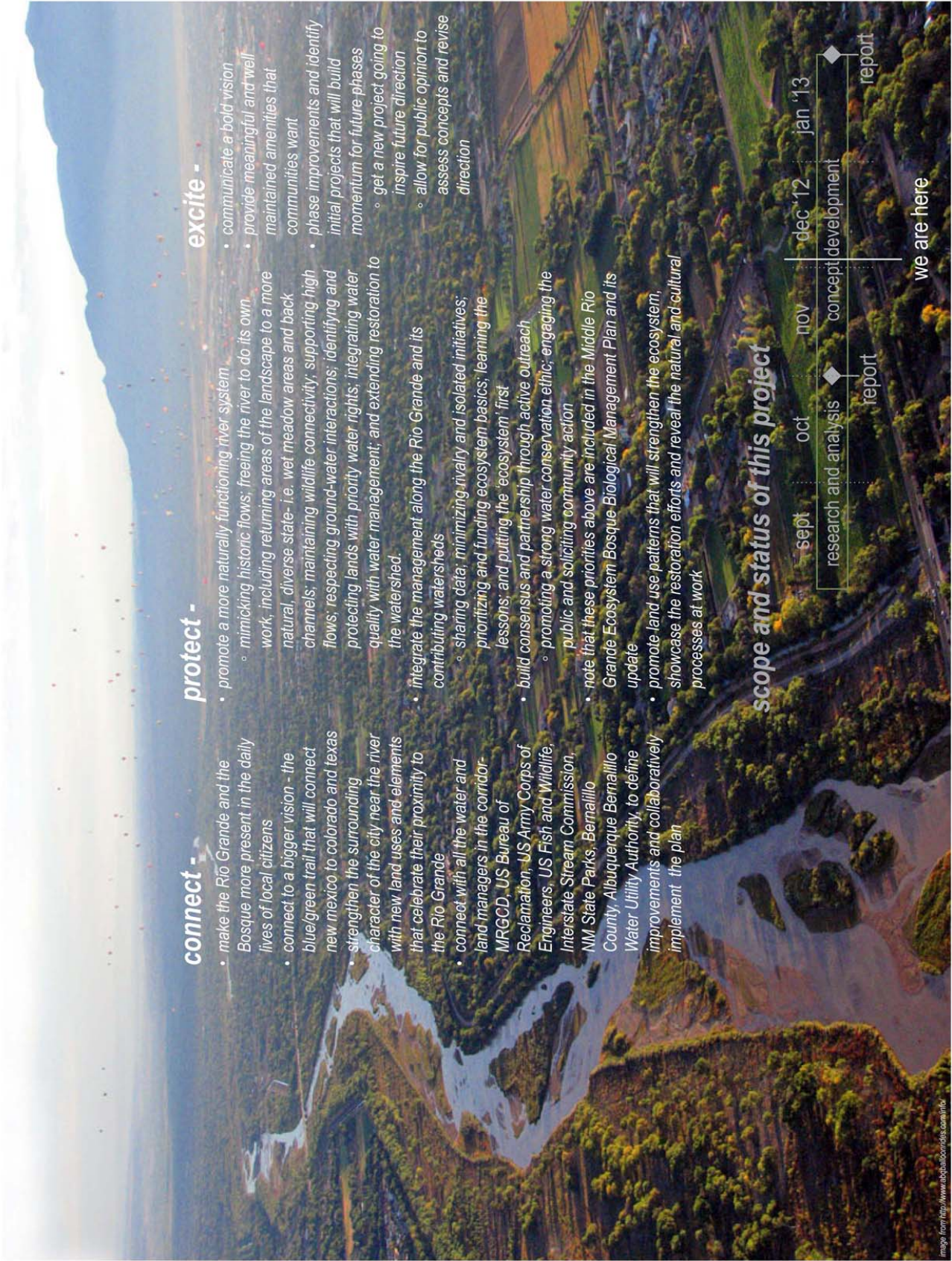


vision - connect to the wild - what do we want the rio grande to be in 30 years?

- The Rio Grande, the fourth longest river in North America, flows within one of just five rift valleys on earth
- The bosque is part of the largest cottonwood-willow forest on the North American continent and is at least 1.25 million years old
- Rio Grande Valley State Park, at over 4,340 acres, is one of the 25 largest urban parks in the country, and is more than 5 times larger than Central Park
- We love and use our park- an average of 780 bike riders per day pass under I-40 on the Paseo del Bosque
- Albuquerque has more park land per person than any other city in the country - almost 3000 SF per person
- Albuquerque has more “wild” edges and sections of river than any other comparable U.S. river city

design principles

- Ensure that improvements in the corridor Protect and Connect
- Celebrate the transition areas between the built environment and the Wild
- Strengthen and leverage existing public infrastructure and investments
- Balance the scale and placement of improvements to benefit the entire community
- Integrate wild, natural and restoration areas into the mosaic of corridor improvements



ABQ THE PLAN: THE RIO GRANDE VISION

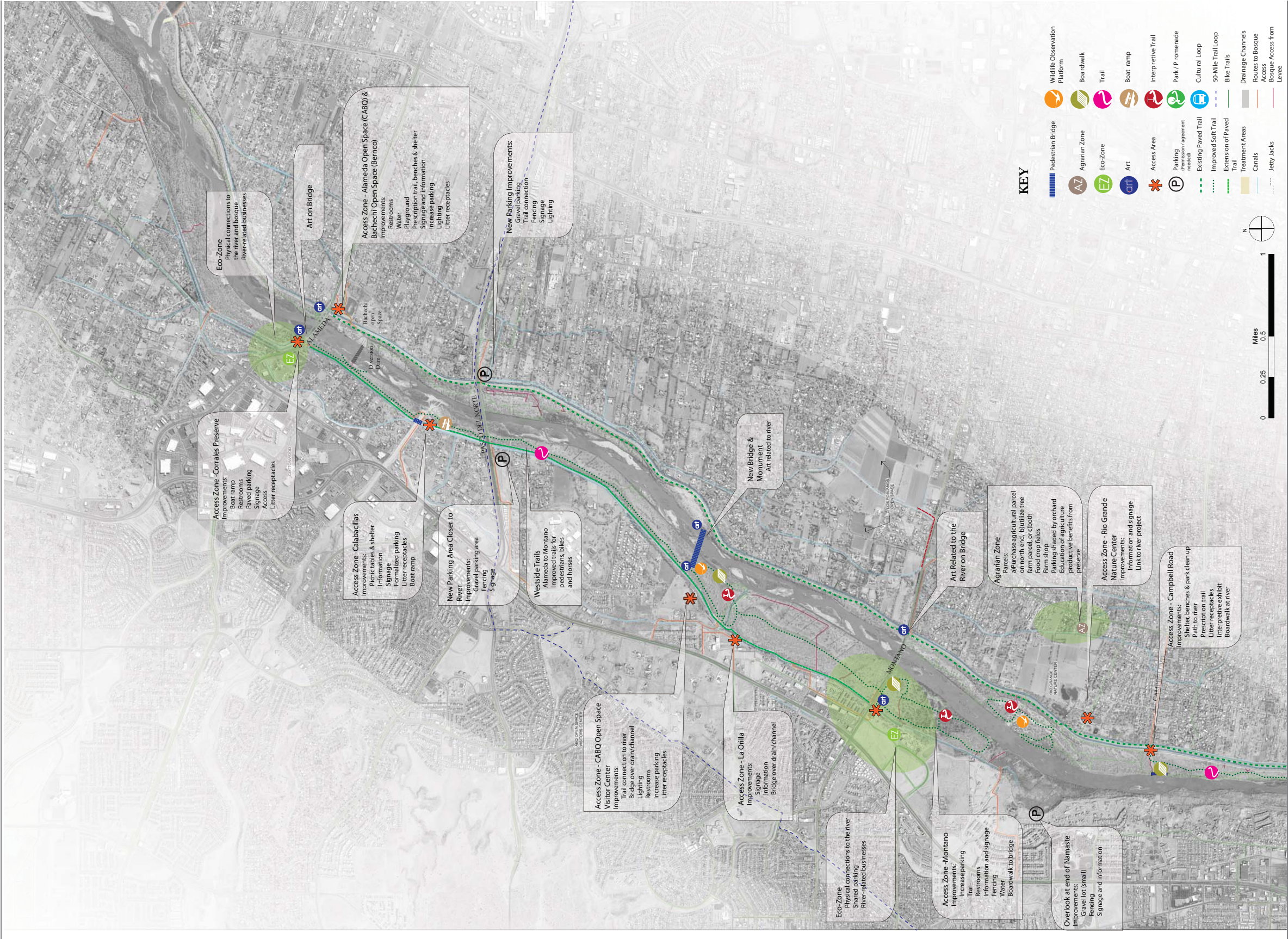
connect, protect, & excite

concept development elements	
 boardwalks & paths <ul style="list-style-type: none">• upgrade trails - access made more deliberate, maintained & secure - instills pride & care• raise walks to protect ecologically sensitive areas & allow for wildlife passage• use material from uplands thinning projects• reclaim unneeded trails	 albuquerque to promote NM blue/green trail <ul style="list-style-type: none">• extend along full length of rio grande state park:◦ paseo del bosque trail◦ connect paths + direct around sensitive areas◦ facilitate paddling• albuquerque plays leadership role to extend thruout NM
 boat launches / ramps / access <ul style="list-style-type: none">• facilitate & add infrastructure:◦ paddling access in city◦ portage path at diversion	 ecozones <ul style="list-style-type: none">• each zone is a unique ecological +/- for economic development opportunity• i.e. central crossing
 pedestrian bridges <ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ connect west and east sides◦ provide views◦ low impact design	 restaurant outside the levee overlooking the bosque <ul style="list-style-type: none">• restaurant outside of levee• outdoor spaces (decks, platforms and terraces) at or inside the levee• patio overlooks bosque and connects to trails• raised structures used to minimize impact, ideally placed in previously disturbed areas
 access area <ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ consistent experience: hours, parking, amenities, signage and security◦ low impact design◦ education opportunity	 restaurant with overlook patio <ul style="list-style-type: none">• restaurant with overlook patio• overlooks bosque• overlooks river• overlooks city
 wildlife observation platform <ul style="list-style-type: none">• view of bosque and river• scientific monitoring• education• sculptural/artful• bird watching	 agri-tourism zones <ul style="list-style-type: none">• celebrate rio grande heritage• transition area: urban and wild• field to fork economic development: restaurants served by fields & local grower cooperatives; farm shops; rio grande valley state park lodge• education opportunities: rio grande irrigation system and agriculture productive benefits near bosque & wildlife preserves (birds eat insect pests, etc.)
 natural public parks <ul style="list-style-type: none">• restore areas and integrate amenities• use naturalistic design• provide clear access and transitions from "developed" to "wild"	 tree-lined drive <ul style="list-style-type: none">• tree-lined drive• overlooks bosque• overlooks river• overlooks city
 wayfinding & education <ul style="list-style-type: none">• get people to the river• have consistent messaging• provide easy access to maps, apps and QR codes	 farm store <ul style="list-style-type: none">• farm store• overlooks bosque• overlooks river• overlooks city
 interpretive trails showcasing restoration <ul style="list-style-type: none">• educational/ecological monuments• interpretive trails• interactive exhibits• art• restoration	 agricultural fields supply market and restaurant <ul style="list-style-type: none">• agricultural fields supply market and restaurant• overlooks bosque• overlooks river• overlooks city
 art <ul style="list-style-type: none">• ecological and land art• cultural art• river related monuments	 music venue <ul style="list-style-type: none">• music venue• overlooks bosque• overlooks river• overlooks city
 facility infrastructure <ul style="list-style-type: none">• parking• restrooms• viewing platforms• seating/shelter• security	 leather event <ul style="list-style-type: none">• leather event• overlooks bosque• overlooks river• overlooks city
 integrated viewing platforms <ul style="list-style-type: none">• integrated viewing platforms• overlooks bosque• overlooks river• overlooks city	 parking - low impact <ul style="list-style-type: none">• parking - low impact• overlooks bosque• overlooks river• overlooks city
 user facilities - restrooms <ul style="list-style-type: none">• user facilities - restrooms• overlooks bosque• overlooks river• overlooks city	 food trucks <ul style="list-style-type: none">• food trucks• overlooks bosque• overlooks river• overlooks city
 cultural loop <ul style="list-style-type: none">• multi-modal• connects destinations• provides opportunities for shared parking	 cultural shuttle loop <ul style="list-style-type: none">• cultural shuttle loop• overlooks bosque• overlooks river• overlooks city

ABQ THE PLAN: THE RIO GRANDE VISION

connect, protect, & excite

concept development | north

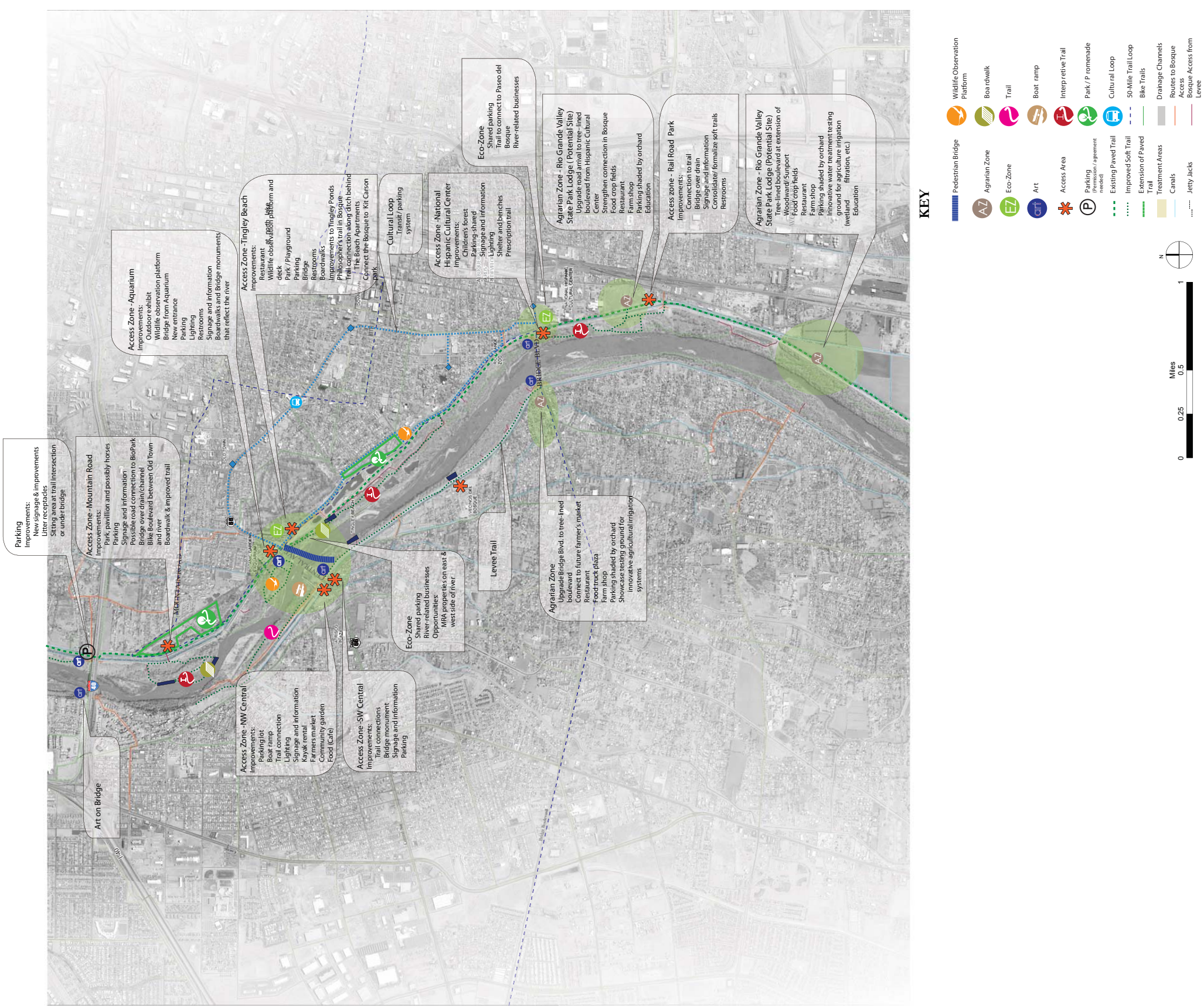




ABQ THE PLAN: THE RIO GRANDE VISION

connect, protect, & excite

concept development | central



ABQ THE PLAN: THE RIO GRANDE VISION

connect, protect, & excite

