



ABQ THE PLAN: THE RIO GRANDE VISION

CONNECT, PROTECT AND EXCITE!



Photo Credit: Bill Tondreau

Outreach / Concept Development / Implementation

Prepared for the Mayor's Office, City of Albuquerque
City of Albuquerque Project Number 763700
November 4, 2013

message from the Mayor

Thank you for your interest in the Rio Grande Vision and in the City of Albuquerque. We have an opportunity to make game-changing improvements to our city, and I hope that you will join us each step of the way.

The Rio Grande Vision (RGV) is about bringing the river more into our daily lives, by:

- Connecting people to the Rio Grande & Bosque through recreation, education, stewardship and other quality of life opportunities
- Protecting the Bosque through restoration and conservation projects
- Exciting people with new ways to enjoy this wonderful natural resource

The RGV is a conceptual visioning document that is full of ideas and concepts; it is not a blueprint for individual projects. The ideas listed in the RGV have come from citizens and consultants who have participated in the visioning process to this point – and additional input is always welcomed.

The Rio Grande is a unique and beautiful natural resource that should be seen and experienced by all, and protected for future generations. Join me as we venture into the future.

Thank you,

Mayor Richard J. Berry



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ABQ THE PLAN: THE RIO GRANDE VISION

CONNECT, PROTECT AND EXCITE!



Photo Credit: Bill Tondreau

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



introduction

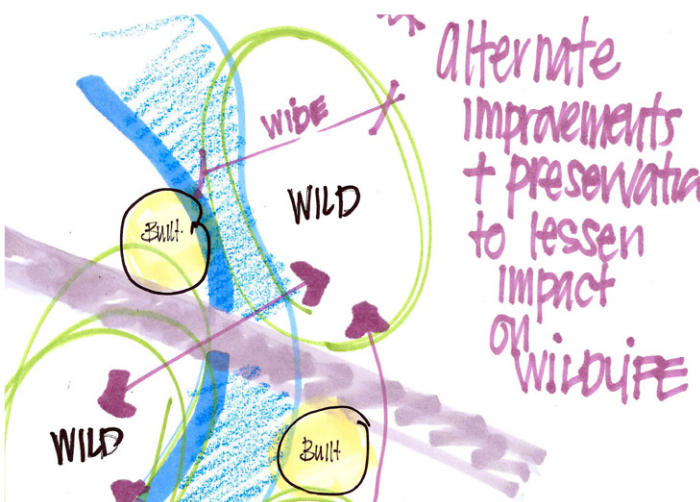
The Rio Grande Vision Corridor Plan is a conceptual plan for improvements along the Rio Grande in Albuquerque that will Connect, Protect and Excite! This report is the second of two documents created for the Rio Grande Vision. In November 2012, the Research and Analysis report was completed and made available to the public. The Research and Analysis report, which provides background information and context for this report, included an introduction to the project, documented existing conditions, compiled and mapped data from a variety of sources, summarized research on comparable river cities and recreation participation rates, compiled information on other Rio Grande-related studies and the land and water managers in the corridor, and provided examples of other relevant river projects. This report documents the second half of the project, where City staff and the project team developed a conceptual plan of corridor improvements, presented these ideas to the public, and then developed a strategy for implementation.

outreach

The City of Albuquerque has a history of public outreach related to the river, through their management of Rio Grande Valley State Park and work with the Open Space Advisory Board. In 2011, The City of Albuquerque's Mayor Richard J. Berry solicited public input on the river via public meetings. Soon after, the Mayor developed a public outreach strategy for ABQ the Plan, so that it could evolve with public input and become the community's plan. The strategy included presentations, creation of a website with surveys, use of the neighborhood association newsletter for communications, and development of an ABQ the Plan email list to get the word out about meetings and project developments. The Rio Grande Vision used all of the City's tools and added more. The project had its own website and linked it to the City website. Additionally, a series of interviews with subject matter experts contributed to a better understanding of the complexity of stakeholder missions, activities and operations along the Rio Grande. Finally, two committees (a steering committee and a technical committee) provided valuable information, perspectives, and direction to the planning team. The Rio Grande Vision is a conceptual plan. Further planning, design, and outreach will help refine the Vision and the Corridor Plan, and be a requirement for implementation.

concept development

Following an extensive research and analysis phase and a multi-pronged public outreach effort, a conceptual plan was created for improvements in the river corridor - primarily within Rio Grande Valley State Park (RGVSP). The Corridor Plan reflects strategic decisions to:



- Ensure that improvements and changes foster enjoyment and understanding of the Bosque and river, and support existing conservation and restoration efforts
- Provide new, high quality recreation, conservation, and educational improvements that will help connect a broader portion of the population to the river
- Focus improvements in areas that are already disturbed or in use by the public
- Consolidate existing trails and paths in order to reduce land disturbance and facilitate Bosque and river restoration
- Distribute improvements along the river to leverage existing public investment and optimize community access
- Encourage public and private partnerships and investment in areas along the river outside of the levees and Rio Grande Valley State Park, where river related uses could reinforce our community's heritage and provide long-lasting community benefits.

The Rio Grande Vision is not a recreation plan. It is a conceptual plan comprised of recreation, conservation, and education principles, practices, and improvements that will provide a wider variety of ways for citizens of all ages and abilities to experience and learn about the Rio Grande and the Bosque. By deliberately creating new and different opportunities for public interaction with the river and the Bosque, more people will begin to see the Rio Grande as both an amenity and a resource. The mosaic of natural and restored areas in the Bosque, and the unique environment found within the floodway are the reasons that many people are currently drawn to RGVSP. For this reason, the Corridor Plan deliberately has a very light footprint, with improvements occupying less than .5% of the RGVSP's 4900 acres.

Elements of the Corridor Plan include:

- trail consolidation and restoration
- boardwalks
- boat ramps and access paths
- improved access areas
- viewing platforms
- education technology package
- interpretive trails/restoration showcases and signs
- art work and aesthetic elements
- extension of the Paseo del Bosque/ Blue Green Trail
- pedestrian bridges
- wayfinding and signage package
- specialized redevelopment zones related to the river and agriculture
- cultural loop - a path for pedestrians, bikes and transit that connects cultural sites in the area

conservation and restoration

Protection of the river and the Bosque are a priority for the City of Albuquerque and the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District (MRGCD). The City of Albuquerque and MRGCD cooperatively manage the 4300-acre Rio Grande Valley State Park in the midst of urban pressures like vandalism, fire and homelessness, and under severe drought conditions that impact water availability for the environmental and recreation activities envisioned in the Park's enabling legislation. Each implementation phase of the Rio Grande Vision will include river and Bosque conservation and/or restoration activities that will reinforce the ongoing work being done by the City, MRGCD and other partners like the US Army Corps of Engineers and the Bureau of Reclamation. Additionally, each implementation phase will be developed within the regulatory context of the Bosque Action Plan, a Rank 2 plan that describes goals, objectives, strategies and requirements related to lands within Rio Grande Valley State Park.

implementation

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

- Planning and design guidelines
- Preliminary project identity study
- Compliance discussion related to the Bosque Action Plan and applicable municipal codes and ordinances
- Organizational structure discussion
- Phasing discussion and design and planning action items and spin-off projects
- Funding
- Case studies



The Rio Grande Vision Corridor Plan is supplemental and complementary to the extensive number of past and present river environment restoration efforts by the City of Albuquerque, the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District and others. The purpose of the Rio Grande Vision Corridor Plan is to provide a framework for strategic improvements within the mosaic of natural areas that will expand public opportunities to experience the river and Bosque in a safe, fun, and respectful way.

- **Visualization Studies:** The intent of these images is to illustrate opportunities for new ways to experience the river in ways that connect, protect and excite!
- **Conservation and Restoration:** Enlargements of the conceptual corridor plan illustrate in the distribution of potential access, education and recreation improvements along the river corridor. Equally important, and described in the document, are conservation and restoration efforts, new wayfinding and signage systems, and education elements that will be implemented with each phase of improvements.

This page: (top) southeast area of river crossing at Bridge Boulevard; (bottom) east side of river south of Central Avenue.

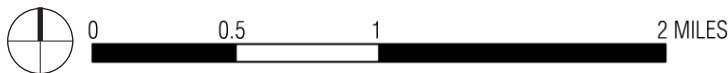
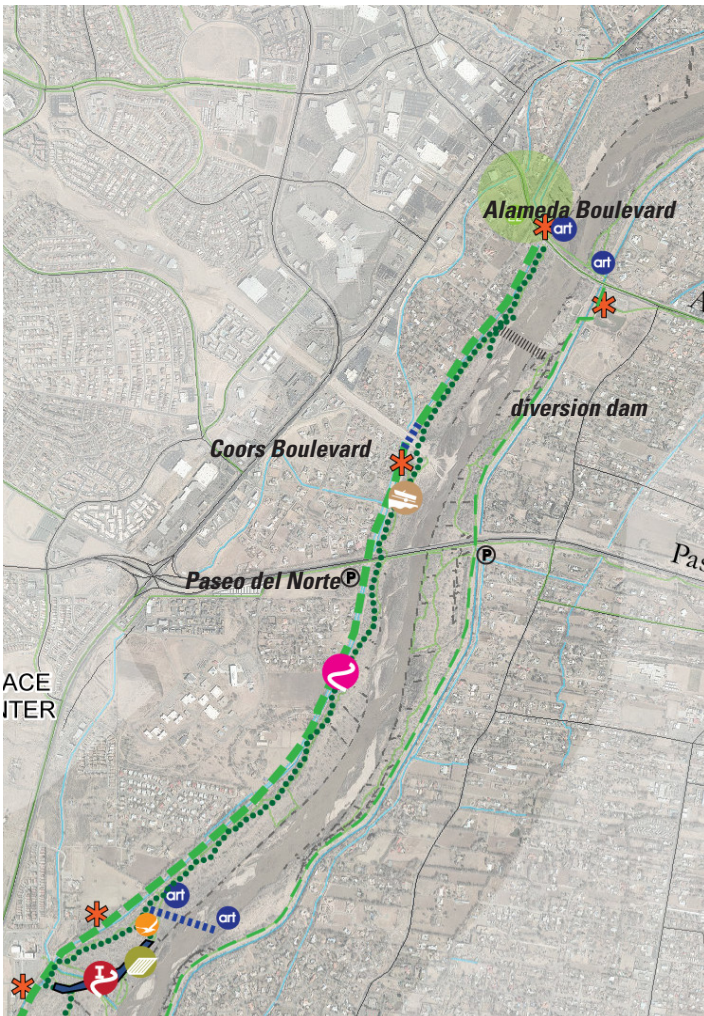
Opposite page: (top) under the Montañito Bridge; (bottom) Montañito Art Walk on the west side of the river.

Following page: (top) deck overlooking the river; (bottom) northeast area at Central Avenue Bridge.



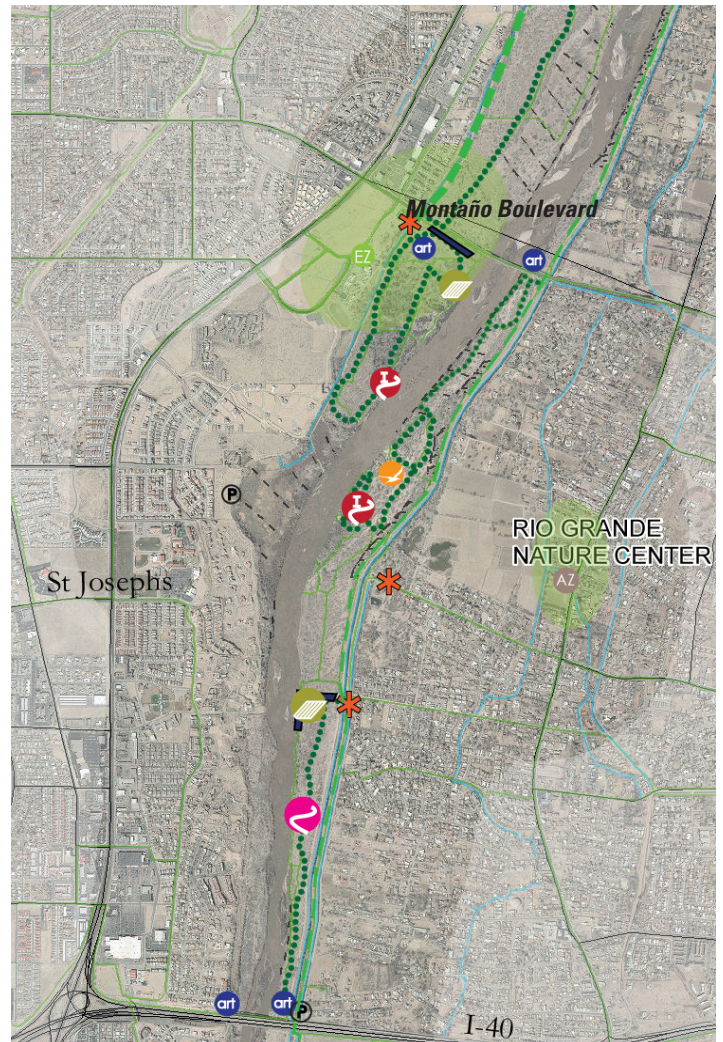






alameda loop

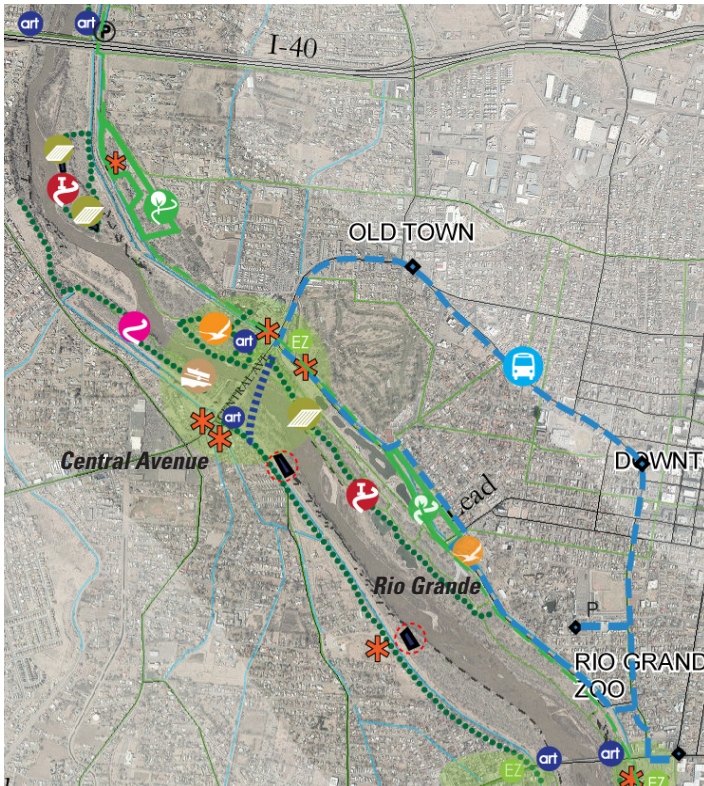
West side trails and a new pedestrian crossing illustrated in this portion of the corridor provide exciting opportunities for improved river access on both sides of the river. A paved path, illustrated on the westside levee, functions much like the Paseo del Bosque on the east side of the river. The path parallels an improved and consolidated soft surface trail in the Bosque, and connects to the regional bike trail system and existing crossings at Alameda, Paseo del Norte, and Montañito. The path also connects to a new pedestrian/bicycle/equestrian bridge that crosses the river near the City of Albuquerque Open Space Visitor Center. The new bridge and associated viewing platform, boardwalk, improved parking at Calabacillas, and interpretive trails provide visitors on both sides of the river with new ways to experience the Rio Grande and the Bosque.



montañito loop

Improvements illustrated in this area reinforce the education and recreation activities already occurring along the river corridor. At the Pueblo Montañito 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 Nature Center State Park, new improvements include a wildlife observation platforms, interpretive exhibits, and a consolidated trail. At the end of Campbell Road, improvements to access such as 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.



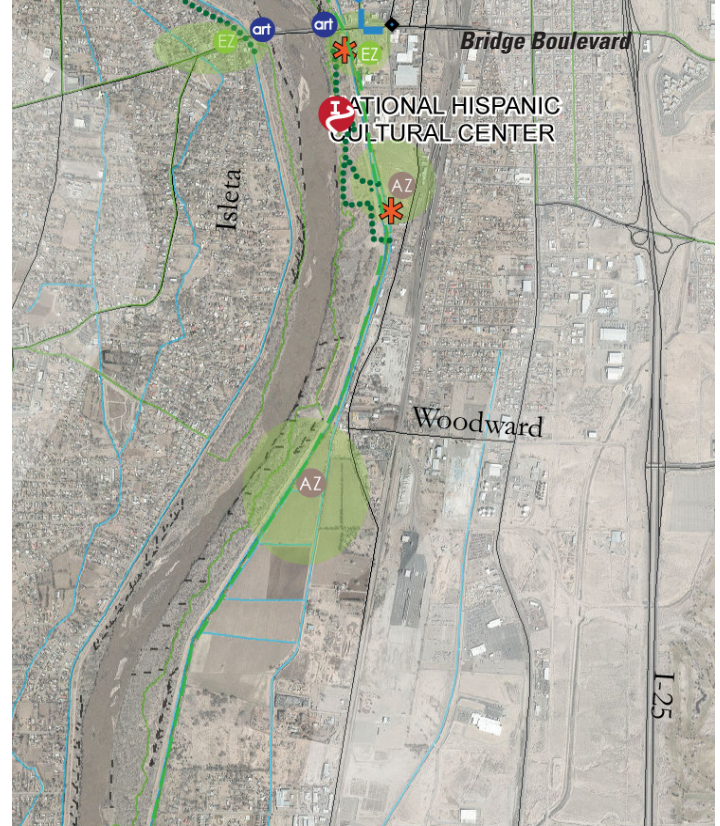


0 0.5 1 2 MILES



central

Improvements illustrated 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 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 access and parking improvements on the east side of the river on both sides of Central Avenue, improvements to the existing picnic area near the Botanic Garden and Aquarium, a new wildlife observation platform near the Rio Grande Botanic Garden and the Rio Grande Zoo, art installations, consolidated trails, interpretive exhibits, and boat ramps.



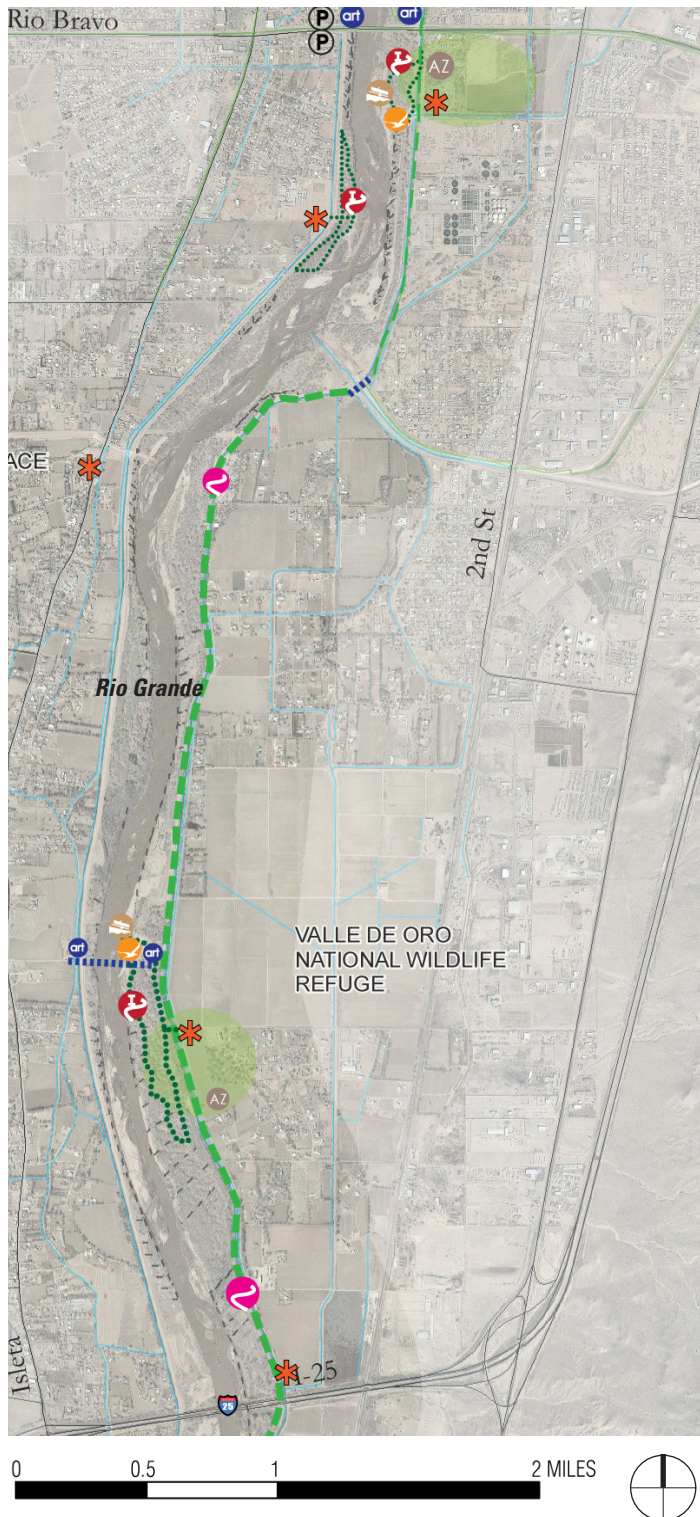
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hispanic cultural center

New and improved access points, public art and consolidated trails comprise the primary physical improvements illustrated in this area. With coordination, implementation of improvements in this area will reinforce public investments, visitation, and activities associated with the National Hispanic Cultural Center (NHCC), Rio Grande Valley State Park, and the City's Babelas Railroad Park.





south valley

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 pedestrian crossing and improvements at the new Valle del Oro National Wildlife Refuge and a new access area at I-25.



In addition to physical improvements related to recreation, conservation, and education, the Corridor Plan includes planning and policy initiatives to Connect, Protect and Excite! Sample projects and initiatives include the following: creation of a river park at Central Avenue, development of urban agriculture zones, creation of UNM flagship farm school, an urban agriculture center near Bridge Boulevard and the Hispanic Cultural Center, Rio Grande water education showcase near Rio Bravo, urban agriculture/restaurant/lodge exploration at Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge, and Rio Grande Festival.



implementation

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

- 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!
- A preliminary Project Identity Study was prepared at the beginning of this project to begin to explore naming and positioning opportunities for the project. Successful project communications, promotions, wayfinding and signage systems will rely in part on a strong identity and brand. The Rio Grande Vision recommends that Rio Grande Valley State Park serve as the focus for the project identity in order to leverage all of the current and future investments made by multiple jurisdictions, agencies and stakeholders along the 19-mile corridor.
- Compliance with the intent of the Bosque Action Plan and applicable municipal codes and ordinances will be required for design and implementation. Designs will evolve with public input. Improvements within Rio Grande Valley State Park will be reviewed by the Open Space Advisory Board, Middle Grande Conservancy District and the US Bureau of Reclamation. Depending on the type and location of improvements, additional approvals may be required from the US Army Corps of Engineers, the City of Albuquerque's Environmental Planning Commission and other agencies and jurisdictions.
- The organizational structure associated with the Rio Grande Vision has not been defined, but the Implementation Strategy outlines multiple options for consideration and explains why this is an important feature of the project.
- Phasing is divided into design and planning projects- all of which should provide value and help build momentum for future improvements. These lists are the recommendations for the first projects to go forward from the Rio Grande Vision Plan. Additionally, a list of specific, initial phase improvements are listed in the Appendix accompanied by information on probable cost, potential partnering opportunities, other key stakeholders and corresponding legislative districts.
- Funding will be a determining factor in phasing and implementation. Funding opportunities vary across the project area due to the wide variety of improvements (recreation, conservation, education, agriculture, economic development), jurisdictions and land and water managers. Funding for each project will likely be comprised from multiple sources, and the work effort - research, analysis, writing applications and tracking will require consistent effort.

- Case studies are included in this section to provide motivation, inspiration and information on implementation strategies used in other river cities.

To learn more about ABQ the Plan: The Rio Grande Vision, please visit the project website at www.riograndevision.com or <http://abqtheplan.cabq.gov>. You can also call the Mayor's Office at 505.768.3000 or send an email to theplan@cabq.gov.





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CONNECT, PROTECT AND EXCITE!



Photo Credit: Bill Tondreau

OUTREACH

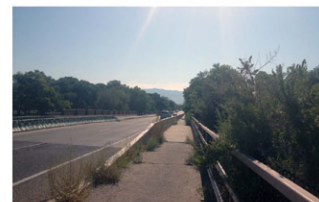


ABQ THE PLAN: THE RIO GRANDE VISION

connect, protect, & *excite*



concept development | *images of the site*



the nature center and I-40



introduction

Public outreach related to the Rio Grande Vision began long before the project became a reality. The City of Albuquerque's Mayor Richard J. Berry initiated a conversation with the community in 2011 - looking for ideas and information on preferences for improvements to the river corridor and Rio Grande Valley State Park. Then came ABQ the Plan. The Mayor developed a public outreach strategy so that ABQ the Plan, as it evolved, would become the community's plan. The strategy included presentations, creation of a website with surveys, use of the neighborhood association newsletter for communications, and development of an ABQ the Plan email list to get the word out about meetings and project developments.

The outreach strategy for the Rio Grande Vision, one of several ABQ the Plan projects, used all of the City's tools and added more. The project had its own website and is linked to the City website. Additionally, a series of interviews with subject matter experts contributed to a better understanding of the complexity of stakeholder missions, activities and operations along the Rio Grande. Finally, two committees (a steering committee and a technical committee) provided valuable information, perspectives and direction to the planning team.

The Rio Grande Vision is a conceptual plan. Further planning, design, and outreach will help refine the Vision and the Corridor Plan, and be a requirement for implementation.

ABQ the Plan

It was important to Mayor Berry that ABQ the Plan be the community's plan, not his or the City Council's. A public involvement & communications plan was developed to educate the community on ABQ the Plan and to obtain public opinion.

presentations

In 2012, the concept of ABQ the Plan was presented at three Town Hall Meetings and three Summerfest events. In addition, the Mayor attended dozens of neighborhood meetings and engaged Albuquerque's thriving business community to continue a dialogue about how we can better invest in our future. In total, the Mayor attended over 100 events with over 40,000 citizens about what this investment could look like, and how it could be accomplished.





presentations to business & community organizations

- Albuquerque Economic Development
- Albuquerque Lawyers Club
- Apartment Association of New Mexico
- Balloon Fiesta Park Charrette
- Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors
- Downtown Action Team
- Economic Forum
- Greater ABQ Chamber of Commerce
- I-25 Association
- Johnson Controls
- League of Women Voters
- NAIOP
- Neighborhood Associations and Coalitions
- NM Tech Council
- Realtor groups including Coldwell Banker Legacy
- Rotary Club, Kiwanis
- Sandia National Labs
- UNM School of Architecture & Planning

rio grande vision survey

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 #1: ABQ the Plan

Which ABQ the Plan Projects Are Important To You?

- 1,173 Responses
- This survey was created in August of 2012.
- The surveys asked for a ranking of potential projects.
- Results: Top 5 projects: Rio Grande Enhancements, Bus Rapid Transit, Paseo del Norte and I-25 Interchange, 50-Mile Loop, Route 66 Improvements.

Should we invest in our future?

- Results: 78.4% said Yes

Online Survey #4: Rio Grande Vision

- This survey asked locals how they currently access the river and Bosque and what improvements they'd like to see.
- 489 responses

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.

ABQ the Plan newsletters

ABQ the Plan projects have been discussed in the monthly Neighborhood Newsletter, which is distributed to approximately 600 recipients and is viewed online by approximately 1200-1500 people. In addition, the ABQ the Plan e-newsletter has been distributed monthly to approximately 500 subscribers.

ABQ the Plan website

ABQ the Plan is a feature of the City of Albuquerque website. The ABQ the Plan page includes information on each project and links to project websites, so that visitors can learn more about the projects, be notified of upcoming meetings and review project documents. The website also invites visitors to share their opinions and participate in an online survey.

<http://abqtheplan.cabq.gov>





committees

Two volunteer committees generously provided their time and expertise to assist the City with development of the Rio Grande Vision. The Steering Committee was comprised of various community leaders and advocates of the Rio Grande and Bosque. The Technical Committee was comprised primarily of public sector subject matter experts including land and water managers for the Rio Grande and Bosque. Both committees met with the planning team three times between September and December 2012.

steering committee

Barbara Baca, COA Parks and Recreation
 Betty Rivera, COA Cultural Services Department
 Bob Murphy, Economic Forum
 Dan Shaw, Bosque Ecological Monitoring Program
 Elaine Hebard, Resident
 Geraldine Forbes, UNM School of Architecture and Planning
 Greg Foltz, Coldwell Banker Commercial
 Heather Wess, Routes Rentals and Tours
 Jerry Widdison, Open Space Advisory Board
 Jay Rembe, Infill Solutions
 John Kelly, MRGCD, Board of Directors
 Josh Skarsgard, ABQ the Plan Implementation Committee
 Matt Schmader, COA Open Space Division
 Michael Hayes, Quiet Waters Paddling Adventures
 Roger Schluntz, UNM School of Architecture and Planning
 Steve Harris, Far Flung Adventures
 Suzie Lubar, COA Planning Department
 Tania Armenta, Albuquerque Convention and Visitor's Bureau

technical committee

Alf Simon, UNM School of Architecture and Planning
 Alicia Austin Johnson, US Army Corps of Engineers
 Andrew Hautzinger, US Fish and Wildlife
 Beth Dillingham, Rio Grande Nature Center State Park Beth.
 Clay Campbell, Bernalillo County Parks and Recreation
 Dennis Wilson, US Bureau of Reclamation
 Grant Brodehl, Bernalillo County Parks and Recreation
 Jerry Lovato, AMAFCA
 Jim Wilber, US Bureau of Reclamation
 Jose Viramontes, US Fish and Wildlife
 Joseph Maestas, US Bureau of Reclamation
 Judith Wong, COA Parks and Recreation
 Julie Luna, Mid-Region Council of Governments
 Kelly Gossett, NM Kayak Instruction
 Matt Schmader, COA Open Space Division
 Mike Hamman, US Bureau of Reclamation
 Ray Gomez, MRGCD
 Rick Billings, ABCWUA
 Rick Janser, ABQ BioPark
 Subhas Shah, MRGCD
 Tom Harvey, US Fish and Wildlife





interviews

Over the course of the project, primarily from August to November 2012, the project team interviewed land and water managers and subject matter experts to gain information on existing conditions, planning, operations and management activities on the Rio Grande, in the Bosque and on lands adjacent to Rio Grande Valley State Park. The following entities generously shared their knowledge and time with the planning team:

- Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority
- Albuquerque Metropolitan Arroyo Flood Control Authority
- Bernalillo County Parks and Recreation
- Bosque Ecological Monitoring Program
- City of Albuquerque: Cultural Services and ABQ BioPark, Parks and Recreation and Open Space Division, Fire Department, Metropolitan Redevelopment Agency, Planning Department, Police Department
- City of Rio Rancho Parks and Recreation
- Commonweal Conservancy
- McCune Foundation
- Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District
- Mid-Region Council of Governments
- National Hispanic Cultural Center
- Organizers in the Land of Enchantment
- Skarsgard Farms
- South Valley Economic Development Center/Rio Grande Community Development Corporation
- South Valley Regional Association of Acequias
- State of New Mexico Rio Grande Nature Center State Park
- The Nature Conservancy
- University of New Mexico: Biology, Civil Engineering, & Sustainability Studies Departments (Dr.'s Cliff Dahm, Mark Stone and Bruce Milne)
- US Army Corps of Engineers
- US Bureau of Reclamation
- US Fish and Wildlife Service
- Village of Corrales
- Village of Los Ranchos de Albuquerque

missions and goals

The primary focus of initial interviews was to understand the missions, roles and responsibilities of the land and water managers along the Rio Grande corridor. The project team also wanted to attain a better understanding of how and when there was interaction or collaboration, and engage the participants in a dialogue about opportunities for improvements along the river. The interviews were informative and promising - with each participant expressing interest in the process, and in opportunities for stronger collaboration and coordination of projects and activities along the Rio Grande.

Interviews revolved around the following questions:

1. What is your organization's mission and management role related to the Rio Grande?
2. What do you think your organization can contribute to the overall economic and recreational enhancement of the river, and what obstacles do you face?
3. Is your organization involved in major projects along the Rio Grande corridor in the vicinity of Albuquerque? Where?
4. Do you have thoughts on new opportunities/ideas for connecting the community to the river? Where should this happen?
5. Which crossings hold the most promise for connecting people to the river? Why?

visions for the future

The Rio Grande and the Bosque are an integral part of many communities and many lives, and we were repeatedly reminded of this during our interviews. Tony Gallegos of the South Valley Economic Development Center, for example, described a vision for the Bridge Boulevard area that reflected its role as a historical trade center with ferries, pedestrian and vehicular bridges fostering a strong connection between east and west. Betty Rivera of Albuquerque's Cultural Services Department, described





a vision for river-related destinations that relied on the amenities found in Rio Grande Valley State Park and that complemented activities at existing nearby ABQ BioPark facilities. Other suggestions included emphasizing and celebrating the river and its role in the City - highlighting the physical transition from city to Bosque to river; educating the public about the relatedness of the Rio Grande and Albuquerque's agricultural heritage; and exploring the river's role in the transformative potential for community food production.

Many interview participants- agencies, academics, environmentalists, and community members alike, supported a "centralized monitoring clearinghouse," as the Bosque Biological Management Plan describes it, that would represent all the priorities, coordinate activities and foster stewardship for the future of the Rio Grande and its watershed.¹ At this stage, the Endangered Species Collaborative is the only venue/organization where all land and water managers are represented. It is our understanding that the focus of this group's activities is narrow - a response to an evolving regulatory mandate to address endangered species issues in a coordinated manner.

So what would river oversight and coordination look like? Suggestions included an Authority (as is used in some regions in Texas), a coalition, a regional planning entity or a new role for an existing entity like the Open Space Advisory Board. There was not a consensus among interview participants on the best way to do this, and several participants expressed the need for continued autonomy. One scenario included the new entity overseeing the few first Rio Grande Vision projects to completion. Some groups, like the Nature Conservancy, pointed out that creating a coalition would be a good first step, as opposed to setting up a new organization, like a foundation, which would then require resources just to keep it going.

¹ *Middle Rio Grande Ecosystem: Bosque Biological Management Plan.: The First Decade: A Review & Update.* (BBMP) Robert, Lisa, prepared in cooperation with the Middle Rio Grande Bosque Initiative and the Bosque Improvement Group. Albuquerque, 2005.

Many participants in the interviews spoke of the urgency of promoting a vision for the future. Ted Harrison of Commonweal Conservancy and Cliff Dahm at UNM among others encouraged this project to be ambitious. They pointed to many communities that have taken on stewardship of its river and watershed as a major commitment, for example, Brisbane, Australia has a ten day river festival, which includes entertainment as well as ecological symposiums on the future of the river. They also emphasized that an effort toward more collective stewardship could not be more timely - due to ongoing drought and the scarcity of water. Currently, there is not enough water in the Rio Grande to sustain many wildlife species, to overflow its banks, and to promote natural cottonwood recruitment in addition to serving sovereign nation/tribal, municipal, and agriculture demands. Flooding the Rio Grande for cottonwood recruitment and other ecological goals has not occurred since 2005 due to drought conditions. Without coordinated conservation and restoration efforts including flooding, it is anticipated that the Bosque, part of the largest cottonwood-willow forest on the continent, will disappear.

Most interview participants acknowledged that the physical and jurisdictional complexity of the Rio Grande calls for sophisticated solutions. Projects fostering multi-disciplinary/multi-jurisdictional cooperation and promoting the river as a complex and rich ecosystem were cited as requirements for river protection. The development of the Valle del Oro Wildlife Refuge, and the subsequent partnership of AMAFCA and the US Fish and Wildlife Service to manage stormwater quality with constructed wetlands, were cited as promising, ecologically-based responses to current challenges.



connect -

- make the Rio Grande and the Bosque more present in the daily lives of local citizens
- connect to a bigger vision - the blue/green trail that will connect new mexico to colorado and texas
- strengthen the surrounding character of the city near the river with new land uses and elements that celebrate their proximity to the Rio Grande
- connect with all the water and land managers in the corridor- MRGCD, US Bureau of Reclamation, US Army Corps of Engineers, US Fish and Wildlife, Interstate Stream Commission, NM State Parks, Bernalillo County, Albuquerque Bernalillo Water Utility Authority, to define improvements and collaboratively implement the plan

protect -

- promote a more naturally functioning river system
 - mimicking historic flows; freeing the river to do its own work, including returning areas of the landscape to a more natural, diverse state- i.e. wet meadow areas and back channels; maintaining wildlife connectivity; supporting high flows; respecting ground-water interactions; identifying and protecting lands with priority water rights; integrating water quality with water management; and extending restoration to the watershed.
- integrate the management along the Rio Grande and its contributing watersheds
 - sharing data; minimizing rivalry and isolated initiatives; prioritizing and funding ecosystem basics; learning the lessons; and putting the 'ecosystem' first
- build consensus and partnership through active outreach
 - promoting a strong water conservation ethic; engaging the public and soliciting community action
- note that these priorities above are included in the Middle Rio Grande Ecosystem Bosque Biological Management Plan and its update
- promote land use patterns that will strengthen the ecosystem, showcase the restoration efforts and reveal the natural and cultural processes at work

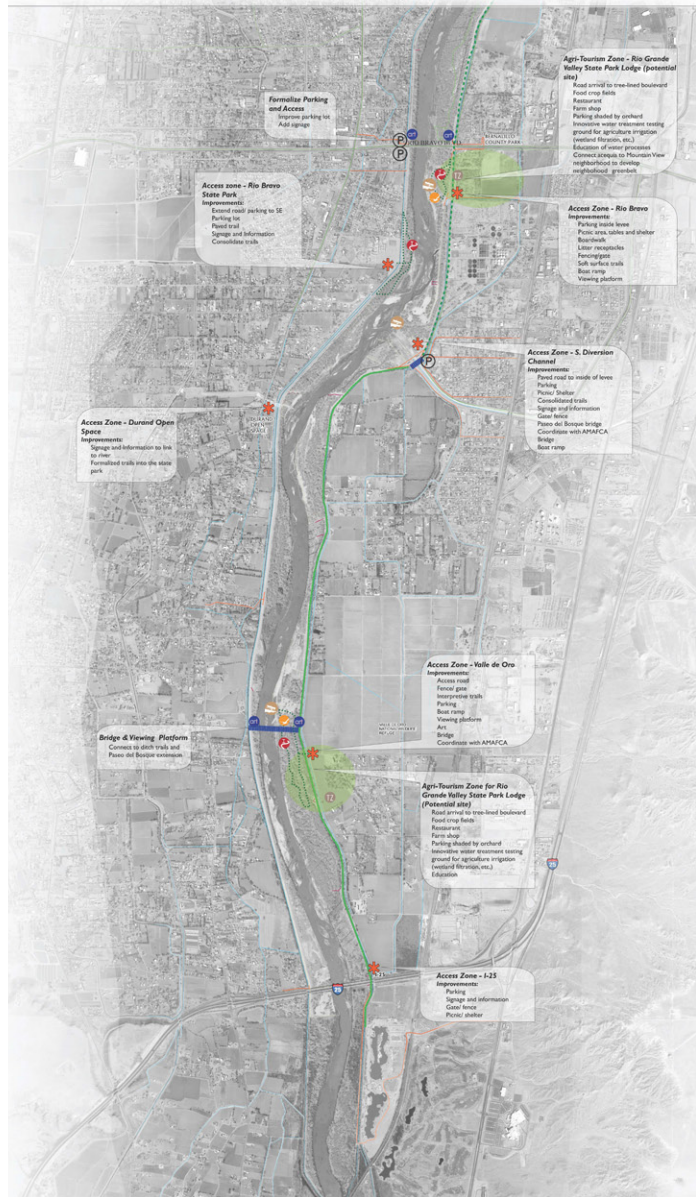
excite -

- communicate a bold vision
- provide meaningful and well maintained amenities that communities want
- phase improvements and identify initial projects that will build momentum for future phases
 - get a new project going to inspire future direction
 - allow for public opinion to assess concepts and revise direction





ABQ THE PLAN: THE RIO GRANDE VISION
connect, protect, & excite
concept development | south



preliminary corridor plan southern section - december 2012

public meetings

City staff held four joint town hall meetings for the Rio Grande Vision and the 50-Mile Loop. These meetings were held in October of 2012 at the Albuquerque Museum and the Open Space Visitor's Center, and in December at the Rio Grande Nature Center State Park and the Open Space Visitor's Center.

All Town Hall Sessions were publicized and all of the Rio Grande Vision documents presented at these meetings were made available on the Rio Grande Vision website.



Town Hall Meeting
December 4th & 5th, 2012

Comment Form for:
(Check one or both)

☐ Rio Grande Vision Project

☐ 50-Mile Loop Project

Please provide comments on this form, and place it in the comment box. Comments may also be emailed to theplan@cabq.gov



(clockwise) RGVSP sign, siphon area, bird tracks in the river bed, Rio Grande south of Central Avenue



website

www.riograndevision.com

A project website was created at the beginning of the Rio Grande Vision project. The website was created to provide project transparency, provide a consistent message about the goals of the project, provide public access to project documents, and to provide information on upcoming public meetings.

Links to the ABQ the Plan website are available from the project website and vice versa. Long term, it is the intent of the City to keep the project website updated and running, so the public can stay connected to the project as it moves into implementation.

<http://abqtheplan.cabq.gov>

Gallery

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[SITE IMAGES](#)



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[SPRING 2012 RIVER TOUR WITH MAYOR BERRY](#)



ABQ THE PLAN: THE RIO GRANDE VISION

CONNECT, PROTECT AND EXCITE!



[HOME](#) [NEWS & EVENTS](#) [PROJECT DOCUMENTS](#) [FEEDBACK](#) [GALLERY](#) [CONTACT](#) [COMMITTEES](#)

Welcome to Albuquerque's Rio Grande Vision

Albuquerque's Rio Grande Vision is about connecting Albuquerque to the river, and protecting the spectacular amenity and resource that flows through the heart of our community. The Rio Grande Corridor in Albuquerque is a hidden ecological jewel that needs to be seen and experienced in order to be fully appreciated by the community and protected for future generations. The Mayor's Office is leading a team of planners, engineers, designers, scientists and economists who will be evaluating conditions along the river. The planning team will be reaching out to the community to learn more about the Rio Grande in Albuquerque, and then developing concepts that will protect the Rio Grande while making it an integral part of people's lives. Please click on [News & Events](#) and [Project Documents](#) to learn more about the project.

ABQ the Plan is a city-wide public project/public investments plan that will spur private investment, improve quality of life for residents, promote tourism and bring new dollars to Albuquerque, enhance economic development and bring new jobs to Albuquerque. The Rio Grande Vision project is one of several ABQ the Plan initiatives designed around a new Vision for Albuquerque as a great outdoor city, a city of innovation and creativity, and a sustainable community. Click to learn more about

WANT TO RECEIVE E-NEWS?

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ABQ THE PLAN: THE RIO GRANDE VISION

CONNECT, PROTECT AND EXCITE!



Photo Credit: Bill Tondreau

CONCEPT DEVELOPMENT

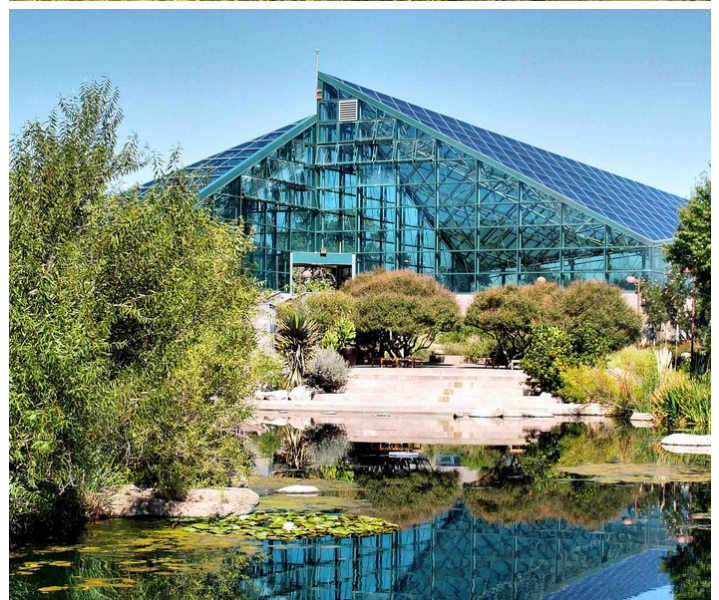
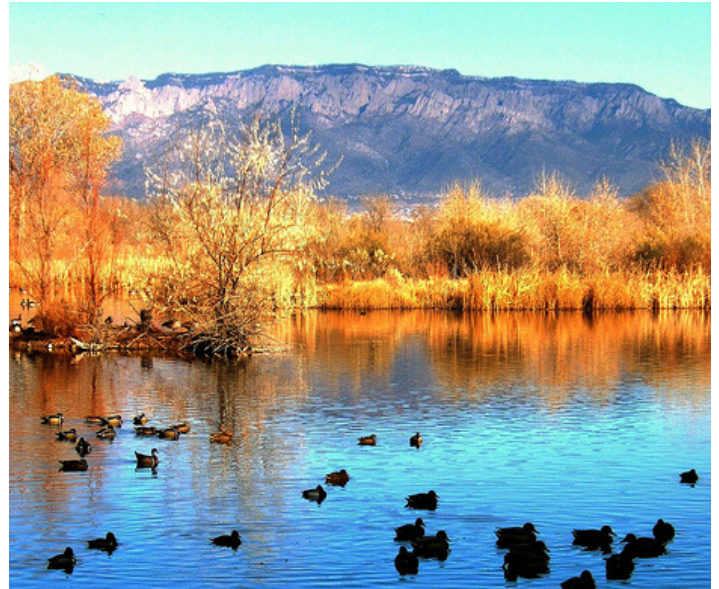
introduction

The Rio Grande Vision Corridor Plan is a conceptual plan for improvements along the Rio Grande in Albuquerque that will Connect, Protect and Excite! Developed following an extensive research and analysis phase and a multi-faceted public outreach effort, the corridor plan reflects strategic decisions to:

- Ensure that improvements and changes foster enjoyment and understanding of the Bosque and river, and support existing conservation and restoration efforts.
- Provide new, high quality recreation, restoration and educational improvements that will help connect a broader portion of the population to the river.
- Focus improvements in areas that are already disturbed or in use by the public
- Consolidate existing trails and paths in order to reduce land disturbance and facilitate Bosque and river restoration
- Distribute improvements along the river to leverage existing public investment and optimize community access
- Encourage public and private partnerships and investment in areas along the river outside of the levees and Rio Grande Valley State Park, where river related uses could reinforce our community's heritage and provide long-lasting community benefits
- Improve wayfinding to the river and Bosque, and include a strategically placed, coordinated signage system that will help people find their way to Rio Grande Valley State Park and help them navigate through the park

The Rio Grande Vision is not a recreation plan. It is a conceptual plan comprised of recreation, conservation and education principles, practices and improvements that will provide a wider variety of ways for citizens of all ages and abilities to experience and learn about the Rio Grande and the Bosque.

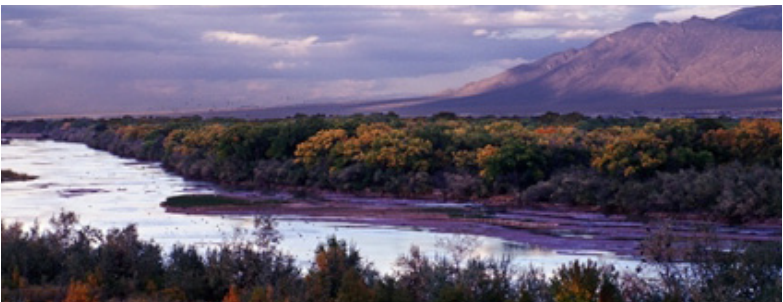
To date, the focus of most funding and improvements within the Bosque and along the river has been restoration and conservation. These efforts by MRGCD, City of Albuquerque Open Space Division, US Army Corps of Engineers, US Bureau of Reclamation and US Fish and Wildlife Service are ongoing. The Rio Grande Vision Corridor Plan supplements and complements these efforts with additional recreation, restoration and education improvements. By deliberately creating new and different opportunities for public interaction with the river and the Bosque, more people will begin to see the Rio Grande as both an amenity and a resource. These people will become stewards of the river - protecting it for generations to come.





LITTLE KNOWN FACTS

- The Rio Grande in Albuquerque is part of Rio Grande Valley State Park which is one of the 25 largest parks in an urban area in the U.S and more than 5 times larger than Central Park
- The Bosque is part of the largest cottonwood-willow forest on the North American continent and is at least 1.25 million years old
- The Rio Grande flows through one of the few active rift valleys on earth and is the fourth longest river in North America
- Native peoples have lived along and farmed in the river valley continuously for over 2,500 years
- Albuquerque has more wild edges and sections of river than almost any other comparable U.S. city
- The ABQ BioPark is located right next to the Rio Grande and has over 500,000 visitors annually





vision - connect to the wild

what do we want the rio grande to be in 30 years?

goals

- 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

design principles

connect

- Connect citizens to the Rio Grande and the Bosque by making it easier to access and by providing a variety of opportunities for activities and experiences.
- Connect citizens in the community by involving them in environmental education and stewardship.
- Connect to a bigger vision - the Blue/Green Trail located in and along the Rio Grande, that will connect New Mexico communities, and connect New Mexico to Colorado and Texas.
- Connect all of the water and land managers in the corridor so that they can collaboratively refine the details of improvements and implement the plan.



protect

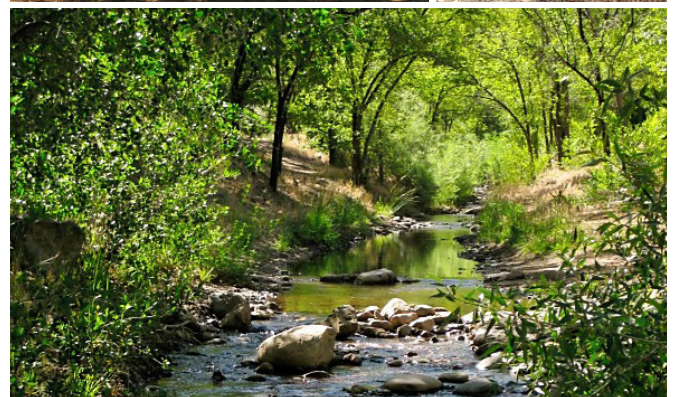
- Protect the Rio Grande by promoting a more naturally functioning river system.
- Protect the Bosque with conservation and restoration projects in areas such as reclaimed trails. Showcase conservation and restoration efforts to reveal the natural and cultural processes at work.
- Conducting ongoing monitoring of habitat to document changes - especially in areas of public use.
- Protect the ecosystem through integrated, coordinated and collaborative best practices operations and management along the Rio Grande and contributing watersheds.
- Protect the corridor's public and natural qualities: locate improvements in disturbed areas and limit the development of structures inside the levees.

excite

- Be bold and persistent in implementing improvements that connect and protect.
- Be strategic by incrementally building and maintaining high quality recreation/education improvements that the community wants.
- Strengthen the surrounding character of the city near the river with new land uses and elements that celebrate their proximity to the Rio Grande.
- Be inclusive by engaging the community to refine the Rio Grande Vision - building public pride in the river and creating stewards of this ecological gem.
 - *phase improvements and identify initial projects that will build momentum for future phases*
 - *get a new project going to inspire future direction*
 - *allow for public opinion to assess concepts*
 - *build consensus and partnership through active outreach*

elements

The corridor plan is comprised of elements - programs, policies and improvements that will help connect people to the river, protect the Rio Grande and excite the community about the beautiful, ecologically rich resource in their midst. The next few pages illustrated excerpts from the Elements boards that were presented to the public in December 2012.





boardwalks & paths

- 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



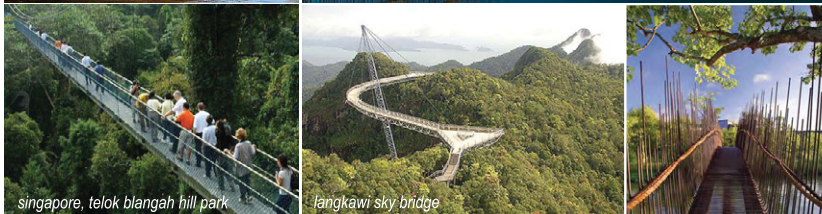
boat launches / ramps / access

- facilitate & add infrastructure:
 - paddling access in city
 - portage path at diversion



pedestrian bridges

- connect west and east sides
- provide views
- low impact design



access area

- consistent experience: hours, parking, amenities, signage and security
- low impact design
- education opportunity



wildlife observation platform

- view of bosque and river
- scientific monitoring
- education
- sculptural/artful
- bird watching



rio grande at ohkay owingeh pueblo



boulder creek

natural public parks



- restore areas and integrate amenities
- use naturalistic design
- provide clear access and transitions from “developed” to “wild”



central park event



wayfinding & education

- get people to the river
- have consistent messaging
- provide easy access to maps, apps and QR codes



Poetry - The Language of Conservation



Bosque Animal Tracks

interpretive trails showcasing restoration



- educational/ecological monuments
- interpretive trails
- interactive exhibits
- art
- restoration



rio grande bosque restoration and educational



park theoretical project- university of new



mexico- professors- coloring page- harris, un

art



- ecological and land art
- cultural art
- river related monuments



nils-udo



patrick dougherty - ruille-buaille

facility infrastructure

- parking
- restrooms
- viewing platforms
- seating/shelter
- security



user facilities - restrooms



integrated viewing platforms





rio grande headwaters - colorado

kayaking north of albuquerque

rio grande in big bend - texas

hiking a bosque trail at tamaya

albuquerque to promote NM blue/green trail

- 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 throughout NM



ecozones

- each zone is a unique ecological +/- or economic development opportunity
- i.e. central crossing

conceptual design



restaurant with overlook patio

restaurant outside the levee overlooking the bosque

- 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





tree-lined drive



restaurant

los poblanos as a model



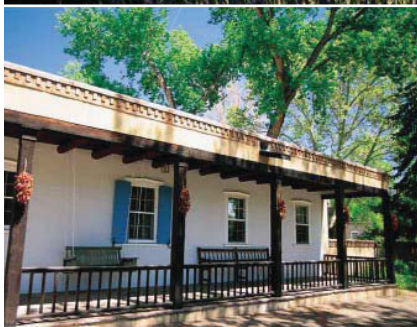
agricultural fields supply market and restaurant



farm store

agri-tourism zones TZ

- 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.)



rio grande valley state park lodge adjacent to the bosque

- celebrate and fund the park
- provide education of rio grande's agricultural heritage
- leading agri-tourism site



music venue



farmer's market



floating event



food trucks

rio grande festival

- weekend event at four Central corners & around the Alameda pedestrian bridge, build up to week-long at multiple sites
- float event put in at Alameda, take out at Central
- cultural rio grande tour, major entities hold events, shuttle connects
- scientific conferences - where we are with the rio grande ecology
- guided nature walks



parking - low impact



cultural shuttle loop

cultural loop

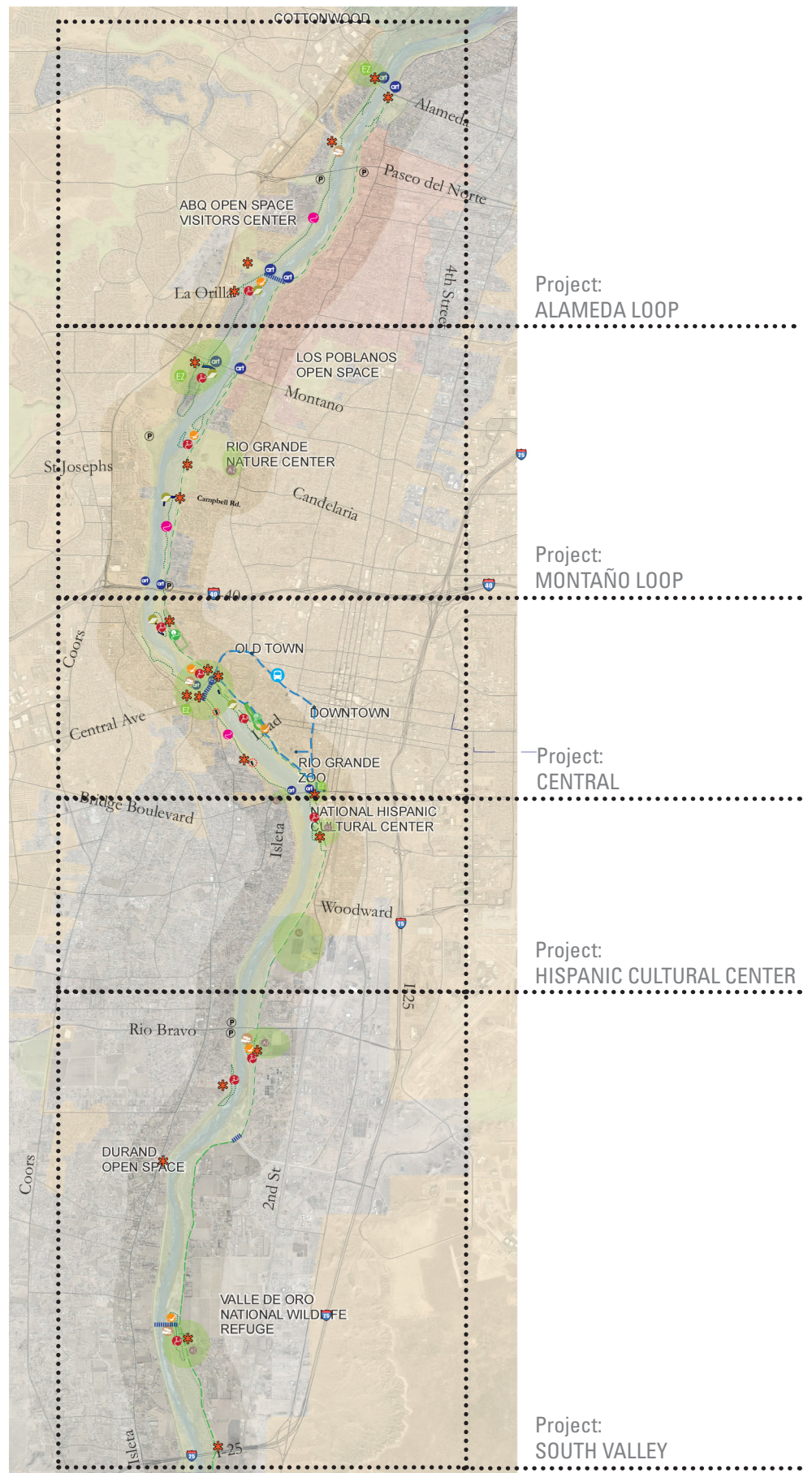
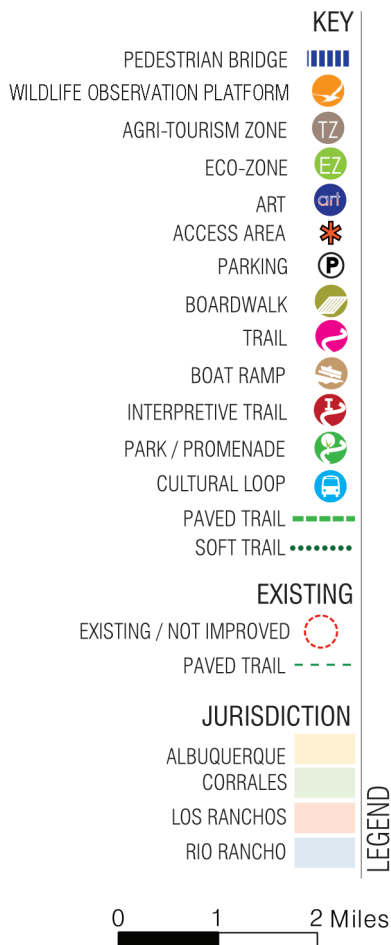


- multi-modal
- connects destinations
- provides opportunities for shared parking



project area map

This map shows improvements in the corridor that are intended to Connect and Protect. Disturbed areas within the levees are priority sites for project improvements. No private development is proposed inside the levees.



corridor plan

The Rio Grande Vision Corridor Plan is a conceptual plan for improvements along the Rio Grande in Albuquerque that will Connect, Protect and Excite! The Rio Grande Vision Corridor Plan is comprised of several pieces: goal and principle statements (see previous pages), the plan, elements of the plan, detailed illustrations and descriptions of proposed improvements along the Rio Grande, and visualization studies that illustrate what the plan components might look like.

connect

The majority of the improvements proposed in the Corridor Plan are focused on connecting the community to the Rio Grande and the Bosque. The Elements represent a kit of parts approach to improving recreation, conservation, and education conditions in the corridor. Improvements, strategically placed within and along the perimeter of RGVSP, provide new and different ways for community members and visitors to experience the Rio Grande and Bosque. This structure provides flexibility for implementation, allowing the City of Albuquerque, Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District (MRGCD) and other public and private partners to continue planning, design and implementation of the Corridor Plan in phases.

protect

Protection of the Rio Grande and the Bosque is integral to the Corridor Plan. It is the literal centerpiece of the project as well as the concept - Connect, Protect, and Excite! The City of Albuquerque, the MRGCD and the US Army Corps of Engineers have been responsible for leading the majority of Bosque restoration and protection activities in Rio Grande Valley State Park, and this conservation work will continue. Much of the work has been related to meeting requirements related to the Endangered Species Act. Millions of dollars have been spent on river and Bosque restoration work and the work is ongoing. Additionally, Rio Grande Nature Center State Park provides educational programs to 10,000 people annually. The Rio Grande Vision Corridor Plan is supplemental and complementary to these efforts. The mosaic of natural and restored areas in the Bosque, and the unique environment found within the floodway are the reasons that many people are drawn to RGVSP. The purpose of the Rio Grande Vision Corridor Plan is to provide a framework for strategic restoration, recreation and education improvements within the mosaic of natural areas, that will expand public opportunities to experience the river and Bosque in a safe, fun, and respectful way.

Corridor Plan principles include focusing new improvements in disturbed or busy areas that are already in use by the public, consolidating existing trails and paths, and then facilitating river and Bosque restoration efforts in the abandoned trail areas. Ideally the amount of newly disturbed area would be less than the amount of abandoned and restored trail areas, and we recommend investigating this approach for future projects.





The Corridor Plan will have a very light footprint in the Bosque and River area.

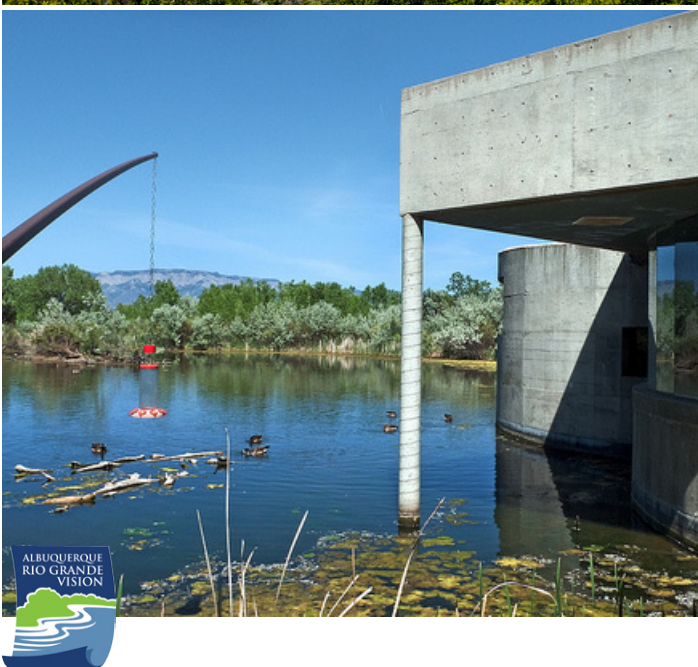
- Total Corridor Plan Area = 4228.5 acres (this includes RGVSP and some areas adjacent to the river, but outside of the park boundary)
- Natural/Undeveloped Area Needed for Improvements = 20.6 acres (does not include improvement areas on degraded/developed land)
- Estimated Area of Abandoned + Restored Trails = 6 acres
- Estimated Net Area of Natural/Undeveloped Land Needed for Improvements = 14.6 acres
- Natural Areas Developed within the Corridor Plan, as a Percentage of the Total Corridor Plan Area = 0.35%

We do understand that there is concern about increasing the number of people who visit the river and Bosque. However, local public safety officials believe that promoting appropriate public access will create a safer RGVSP by increasing observation of the Bosque and river, and putting pressure on people who are engaged in illegal activities in the Bosque to go elsewhere. This is one example of how the Corridor Plan is guided by Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design principles- a multi-disciplinary approach to deterring crime through environmental design. Another example of this is the creation of coordinated new and renovated Access Areas along the corridor. A hierarchy of Access Areas is planned to provide a reliable combination of amenities such as consistent signage and wayfinding elements, restrooms, parking, sitting areas, and shelters. New and regular visitors to each Access Area will be able to depend on consistent service and orientation features, and be able to quickly learn how to navigate into, around and through RGVSP. Currently, access to RGVSP is not well promoted, is inconsistently marked, and even the access hours are not coordinated between the City of Albuquerque, Bernalillo County and the NM State Parks Division. Local Public Safety officials encourage the introduction of more recreation/conservation/education visitors to the river corridor via well-appointed, coordinated access areas, with the belief that this will encourage visitation by people who will keep an eye on the RGVSP and become stewards of the Bosque and River.

excite

The Corridor Plan is a conceptual plan. New features along the river - boardwalks, wildlife observation platforms, river crossings, interpretive exhibits, boat ramps, trails and art, will provide exciting, fun and compelling ways for people to experience the Bosque and the river. There is more public outreach, design and detailing that needs to occur to refine the Corridor Plan components and their locations- providing opportunities to build public support and participation in the implementation of the

Corridor Plan.



a diversified approach

The Corridor Plan is designed to strike a sustainable and energizing balance between Connect, Protect and Excite!

This diversified approach for the Corridor Plan, with many types of improvements that address a wide variety of community interests is inclusive: developed with public input; reflecting a broad range of community needs; respectful of existing policies and regulations developed with community input; inclusive of new policies designed to protect long and short term community interests; and designed to attract segments of the community who are underserved or unengaged with the River.

During development of the Corridor Plan this diversified approach was well received by steering and technical committee representatives and participating land and water managers. Presentations to the public, however, were challenging. There was a large amount of information to communicate, and not enough time to do this well and have a meaningful dialogue/discussion. Many of the most vocal opponents- most of whom were concerned about the Bosque, did not appear to understand the Corridor Plan and/or did not agree with the intent of the project. This may be because Bosque protection has been the passion and focus of so many people for so many years. While one of the goals of the project is to connect people to the River, some participants clearly indicated that they did not want to make it easier or more convenient for people to visit the river because they were concerned about the negative impacts that more visitors would have on wildlife, and on the quiet natural environment that they treasured. Some participants did not want to see any improvements to the river and Bosque area. It was clear from these comments that participants felt that a coordinated effort to do anything but restoration in the Bosque was a step backward and should be met with opposition. This suggests several things for the project as it moves forward: that more public outreach and involvement is needed during design; that a more scientific approach to surveying the community, such as focus groups or phone surveys, might be appropriate to better communicate project information and solicit public opinion, and that improvements to project communication and messaging will be needed as components of the project move forward into further planning and design.

There are other river-related issues that are connected to Bosque preservation, and which are similarly important to serving long term community interests.

What will the river and its Bosque be like in the ... year 2025, and in the year 2050?"¹ What would central New Mexico be like without the river and its riparian areas? Would the community still exist? Would the area's history or the diversity of its people be as rich? These remain central questions for the Rio Grande in Albuquerque.

The Rio Grande Vision is about making the river a bigger part of people's lives. For those of us who frequent the river, there is a shared appreciation of the history, the beauty, and the always surprising and impressive scale and presence of such a large natural area in the midst of the city.

"...In common with the earliest inhabitants, [we] see a living environment that has inherent beauty and worth."² The Rio Grande drew Albuquerque's early residents to its banks, and a breadbasket and trading center for a wide regional area grew out of the natural riches. Today that heritage remains a source of beauty and a foundation for our communities. "What we are talking about when we talk about the river is a whole culture, an economy, a way of life... we associate the river with the farmland that surrounds it. And in order to retain the health of the river and keep the river the way we want to see it, vibrant and healthy, we must also protect agriculture."³

Working to keep water running through the Rio Grande is a near universal goal, sustaining the natural beauty and function that gives life to the Bosque, its wildlife, our people, and our culture. This will take leadership, as many sources vitally need more water than is available. "The life of the Rio Grande depends on the long-term vision of the people around it and their willingness to implement that vision... the big decisions."⁴ A key opportunity lies in that many uses are mutually supportive, for example, restoring the ecology supports agricultural productivity, while irrigation along the Rio Grande's floodplains recharges our ground water aquifers. Community-developed pilot projects can study and model efforts that enrich our natural bounty and share these lessons broadly, bringing them into a full public forum. Policy can support such forward movement.

1 *La Vida Del Río Grande, Our River - Our Life. A Symposium-May 24, 2002. Restoration and Monitoring on the Rio Grande.* Cynthia Abeyta.

2 *Reining in the Rio Grande, People, Land, and Water.* Phillips, Fred M., and G. Emlen Hall, and Mary E. Black. Albuquerque: UNM Press, 2011.

3 *La Vida Del Río Grande... Acequia Communities and the Privatization of Water,* Paula Garcia, New Mexico Acequia Association

4 Phillips et al.



visualization: before + after studies

Pages 34-39 are intended to illustrate how some of the corridor plan elements might transform certain areas of the river corridor. The intent of these images is to illustrate opportunities for new ways to experience the river in ways that connect, protect and excite!

corridor plan

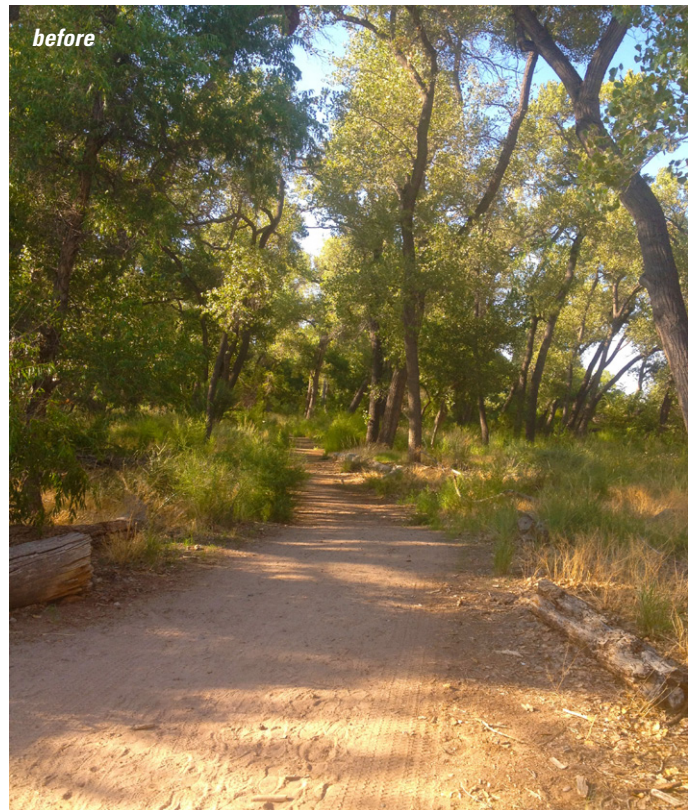
Pages 40-44 include enlargements of the corridor plan - illustrating in a conceptual manner, the distribution of potential access, education and recreation improvements along the river corridor. Not illustrated on the plans, but equally important, are conservation and restoration efforts, new wayfinding and signage systems, and education elements. For example:

- Trail Consolidation (where trails are selectively closed and corridors restored): will expand contiguous areas of Bosque.
- Wayfinding and Signage Systems: will guide people to parking and access areas from around the City, and help visitors find their way inside of Rio Grande Valley State Park.
- Education Elements: in addition to interpretive exhibits, will include information on the history, culture and ecology of the river and Bosque made available to the public via mobile devices.

Opportunities for river and Bosque restoration projects, as well as wayfinding, signage and education improvements, will be identified and implemented with each phase of improvements.

southeast area of river crossing at bridge boulevard

consolidated trails, interpretive signage, wildlife observation platform, children's forest exhibit, restoration





east side of river south of central avenue

accessible boardwalk, boat ramp, site furnishings, interpretive exhibits, restoration





montaño art walk - west side of river, south of the bridge

accessible boardwalk, wayfinding and signage, QR code station, art, restoration of disturbed areas,



montaño art walk - under the bridge

accessible boardwalk, wayfinding and signage, art, restoration of disturbed areas, beach





deck overlooking the river - north of central, west side of the bridge

parking, accessible boardwalk and deck associated with nearby metropolitan redevelopment property, boat ramp, interpretive exhibit, site furnishings, restoration





northeast area at central avenue bridge

accessible boardwalk, boat ramp, site furnishings, wayfinding and signage elements, interpretive trail, consolidated trails, restoration





Boardwalk



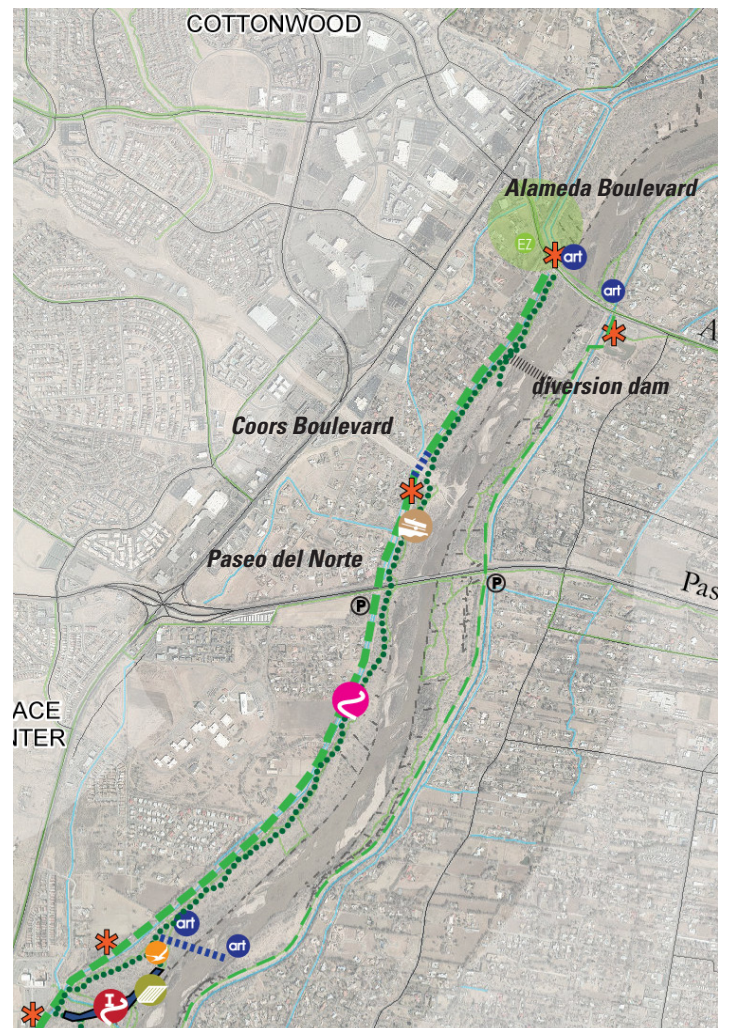
Pedestrian bridge



Art



Interpretive trail

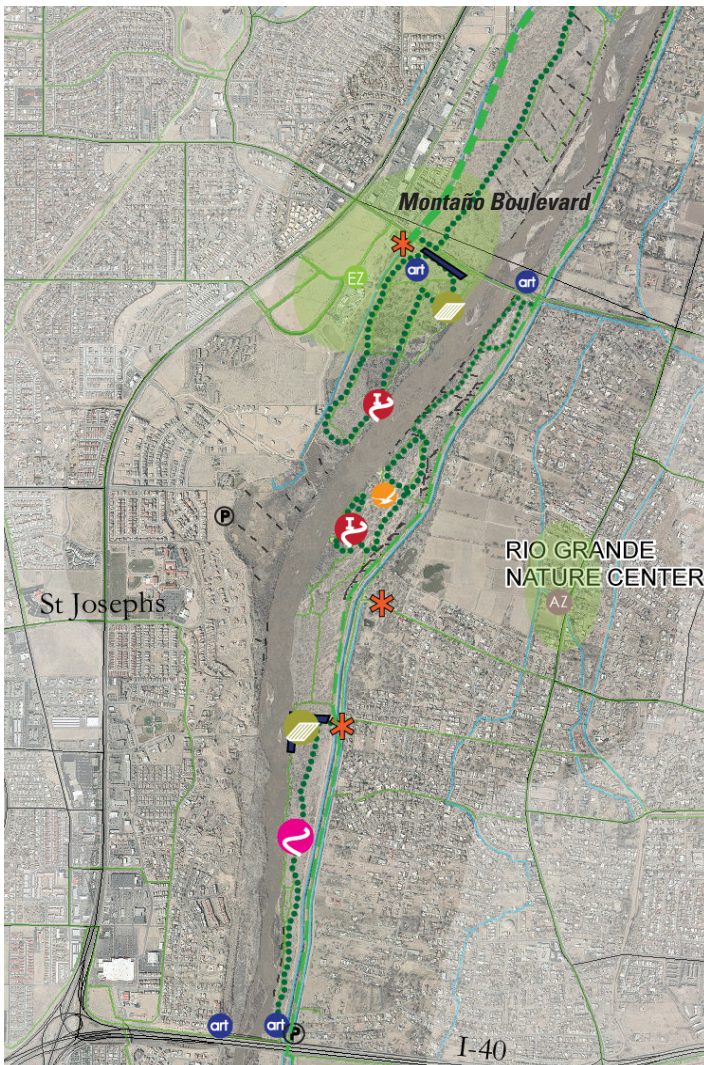


alameda loop

West side trails and a new pedestrian crossing illustrated in this portion of the corridor provide exciting opportunities for improved river access on both sides of the river. A paved path, illustrated on the westside levee, functions much like the Paseo del Bosque on the east side of the river. The path parallels an improved and consolidated soft surface trail in the Bosque, and connects to the regional bike trail system and existing crossings at Alameda, Paseo del Norte, and Montaño. The path also connects to a new pedestrian/bicycle/equestrian bridge that crosses the river near the City of Albuquerque Open Space Visitor Center. The new bridge and associated wildlife observation platforms, boardwalk, improved parking at Calabacillas, and interpretive trails provide visitors on both sides of the river with new ways to experience the Rio Grande and the Bosque.

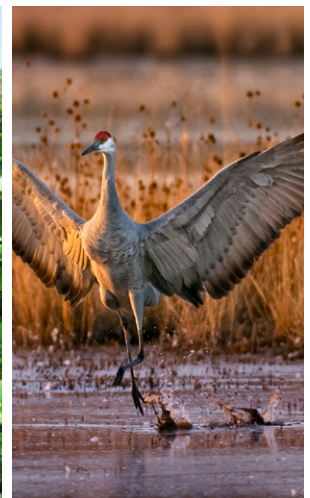


* refer to pages 25-29 for descriptions of map icons.



montaño loop

Improvements illustrated in this area reinforce the education and recreation activities already occurring along the river corridor. At the Pueblo Montañito 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 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 access such as 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.



* refer to pages 25-29 for descriptions of map icons.





Cultural loop



Access areas



Boat ramp



Interpretive trail



Agrarian zone



Park / Promenade



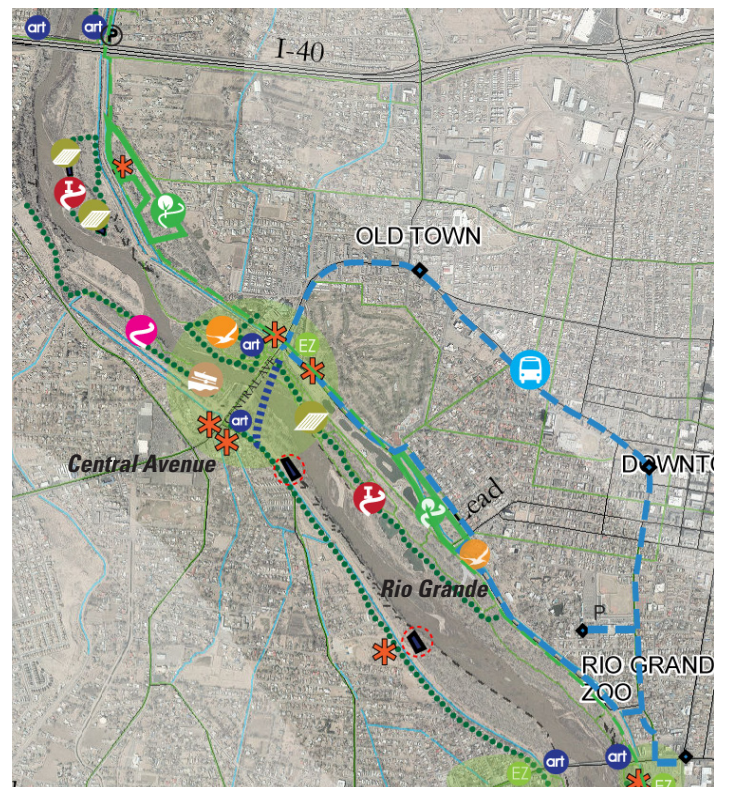
Boardwalk



Pedestrian bridge

central

Improvements illustrated 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 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 access and parking improvements on the east side of the river on both sides of Central Avenue, improvements to the existing picnic area near the Botanic Garden and Aquarium, a new wildlife observation platform near the Rio Grande Botanic Garden and the Rio Grande Zoo, art installations, consolidated trails, interpretive exhibits, and boat ramps.



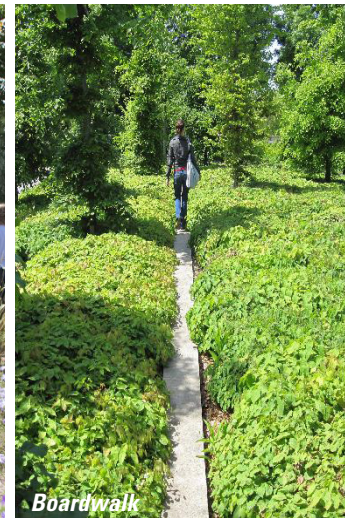
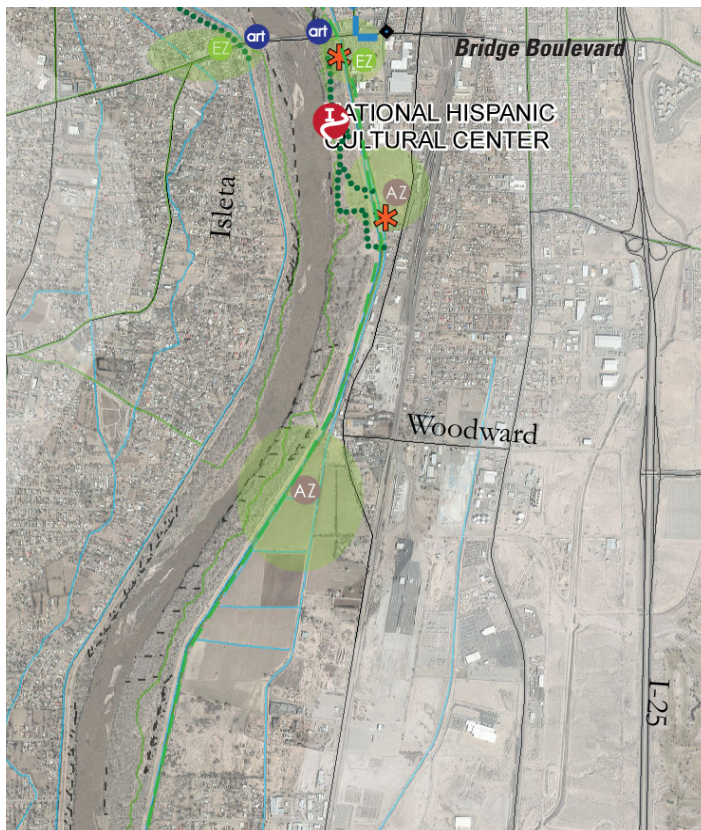
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* refer to pages 25-29 for descriptions of map icons.

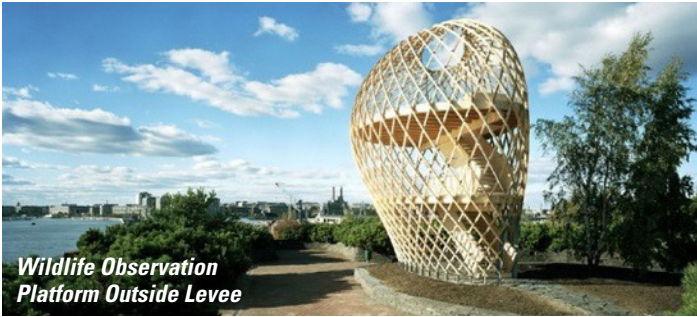
hispanic cultural center

New and improved access points, public art and consolidated trails comprise the primary physical improvements illustrated in this area. With coordination, implementation of improvements in this area will reinforce public investments, visitation, and activities associated with the National Hispanic Cultural Center (NHCC), Rio Grande Valley State Park, and the City's Baretas Railroad Park.



* refer to pages 25-29 for descriptions of map icons.





Wildlife Observation
Platform Outside Levee



Pedestrian bridge



Agrarian zone outside the levees

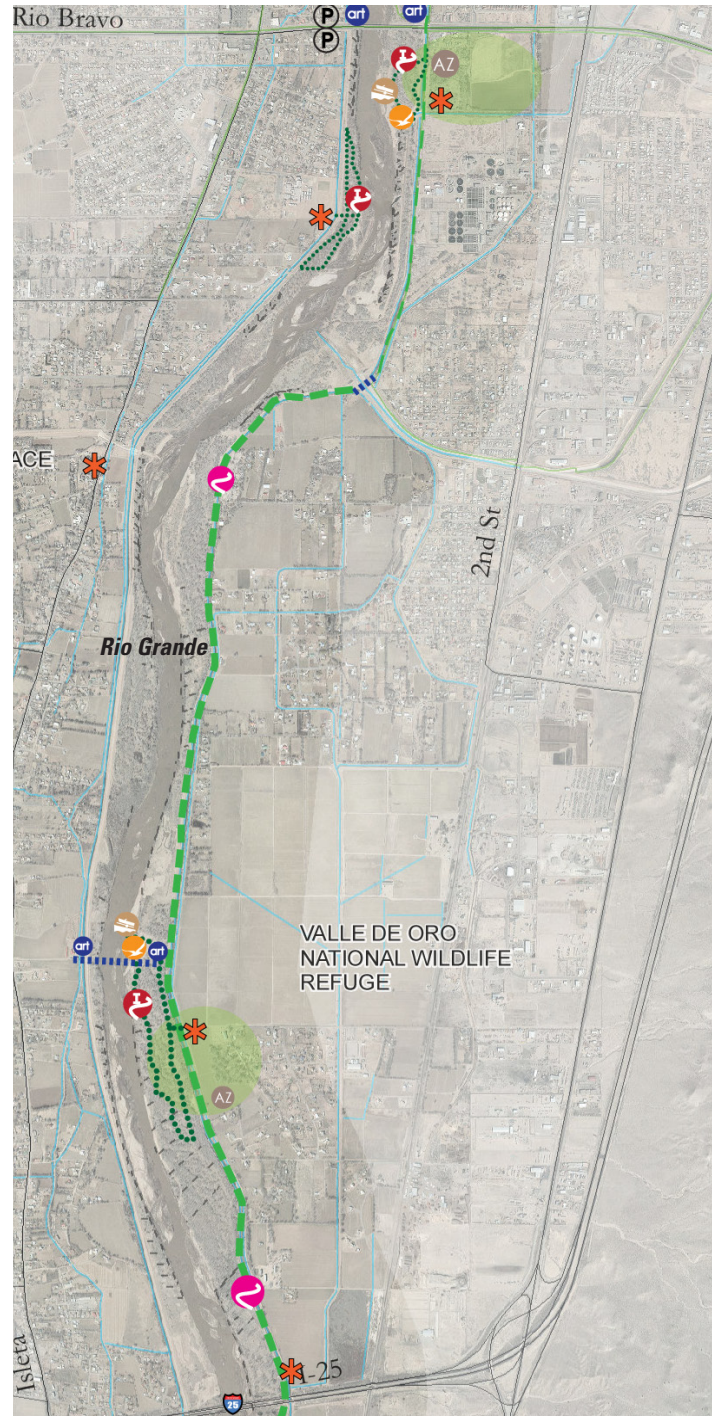


Pedestrian bridge

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* refer to pages 25-29 for descriptions of map icons.



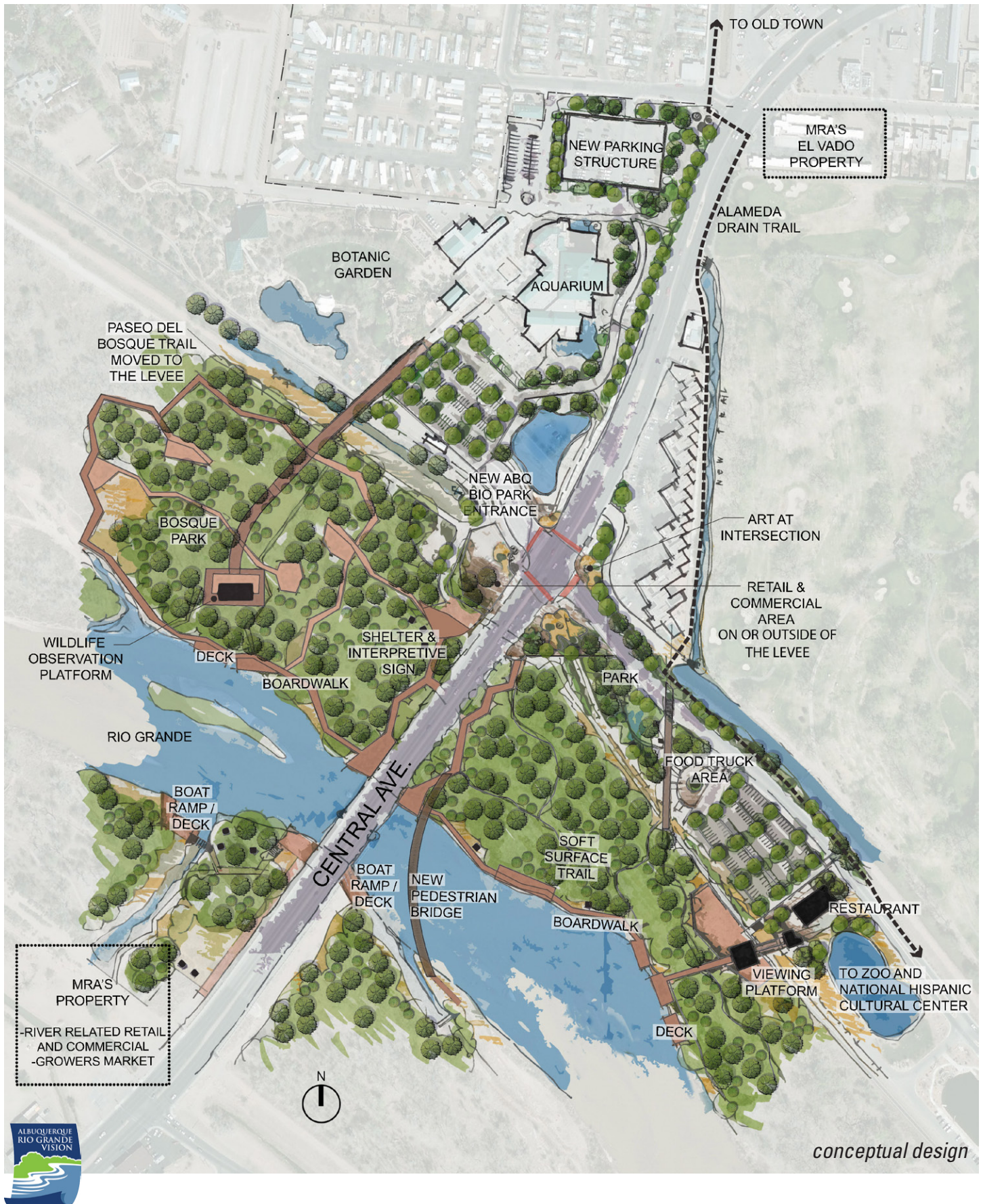
south valley

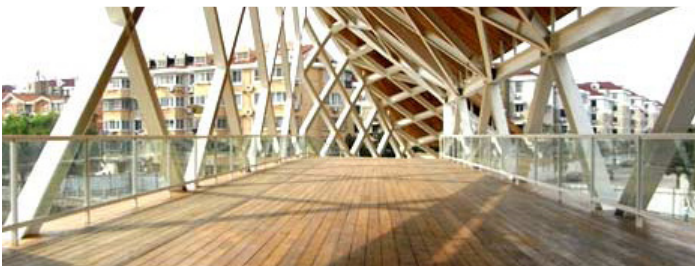
Improvements in this area of the corridor are focused on improving strategically located public access areas and extending the Paseo del Bosque to the southern boundary of Bernalillo County. Improvements are located near Rio Bravo Boulevard, at the South Diversion Channel, Rio Bravo Park, and Durand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

planning, projects + policy

The previous pages illustrate improvements included in the Rio Grande Vision Corridor Plan. Planning and policy initiatives are a bit more difficult to illustrate. The following pages provide additional background on planning, project and policy initiatives that reflect the diversified approach of the Corridor Plan - to Connect, Protect and Excite!





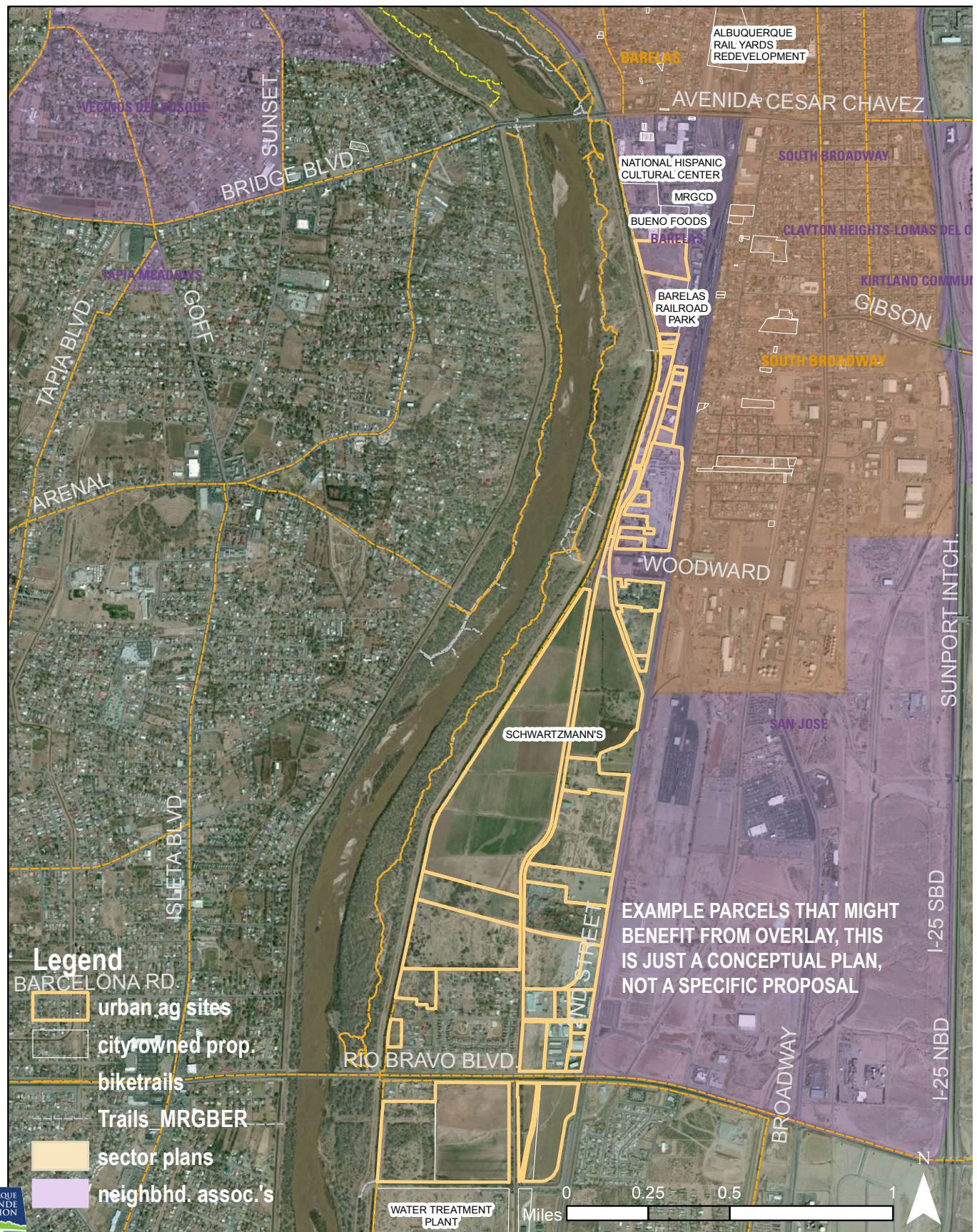


river park @ central

- Make the river a destination at Central Avenue
- Create a new entrance/intersection at Tingley Drive and Central that celebrates the river and BioPark facilities
- Provide river related amenities inside and outside of the levees
- Include and showcase new river and Bosque restoration.
- Leverage existing amenities, infrastructure, and restoration areas
- Provide a new pedestrian river crossing that connects to existing trails on both sides of the river
- Prioritize and incentivize development of the metropolitan redevelopment properties on both sides of the river with river related and/or complementary uses
- Project ideas:
 - NE corner: interpretive exhibit, boardwalk, consolidated trails, shelters and picnic areas, art, restoration, signage
 - SE corner: bosque park, art, parking, food trucks, restaurant, deck
 - NW corner: new river-related development outside levee, parking, boat ramp, trails, restoration, deck overlooking the river
 - SW corner: parking, trails, wayfinding and signage, restoration, consolidated trails, art
 - Crossing: pedestrian crossing on the south side of the existing bridge

(Left page) Preliminary river park concept sketch
 (Top to bottom) These images are used to convey conceptual ideas: attractive shelters for gathering, beach edge/access in some locations, accessible boardwalks and decks used to provide closer access to water, river as a destination for balloons as well as people, creative, attractive and functional pedestrian crossings connect trails and provide new experiences along the river.







urban agriculture zone

- Provide an incentive for land along the Rio Grande and its Bosque to remain in or return to agriculture and allow for mixed uses that provide economic support for the heritage culture of high-value food production.
- Showcase innovative models and land practices (see next pages). The hispanic cultural center, southside water treatment plant, and Valle de Oro reserve could serve as main anchors.
- Encourage a form of urban agriculture new to Albuquerque-planned unit developments that allow for a more dense group of housing with subsistence gardens, surrounded by fields in commercial agricultural production.
- Establish a voluntary overlay zone that owners can elect to apply to their parcels which fall within a distance of the Rio Grande.
- Facilitate a voluntary turnover of current industrial sites for those that find it beneficial to sell. The Bridge Boulevard redevelopment plan has identified a large industrial area, so City capacity exists for industrial uses as needed. Current brownfield sites would find new benefits to utilize superfunds.
- Pursue use of the City's Private Commons Development Zone (PCD Zone) as a vehicle for this overlay zone. This zone already allows for more dense residential clustering on parcels.
- Urban agricultural zone policies are spreading throughout the US- San Francisco and Minneapolis recently adopted plans.





dining on a patio overlooking the Bosque



bridge & boardwalk into Bosque



interpretive/education monuments



restaurant supplied by fields



agricultural fields supply market and restaurant



farm store



tree-lined drive into site

urban agricultural project concept

bosque showcased + integrated

- View into Bosque makes a desirable destination
- Multi-disciplinary projects - biology restoration to bolster farm productivity (bird habitat for agriculture pests, etc.)
- Watershed vision: boardwalk material can be provided by Nature Conservancy-convened upper watershed thinning initiatives
- Interpretative walks provide public educational opportunity

restaurant

- Market for farm production
- Revenue for school
- Jobs for community
- Amenity for community and tourism

fields + farm store

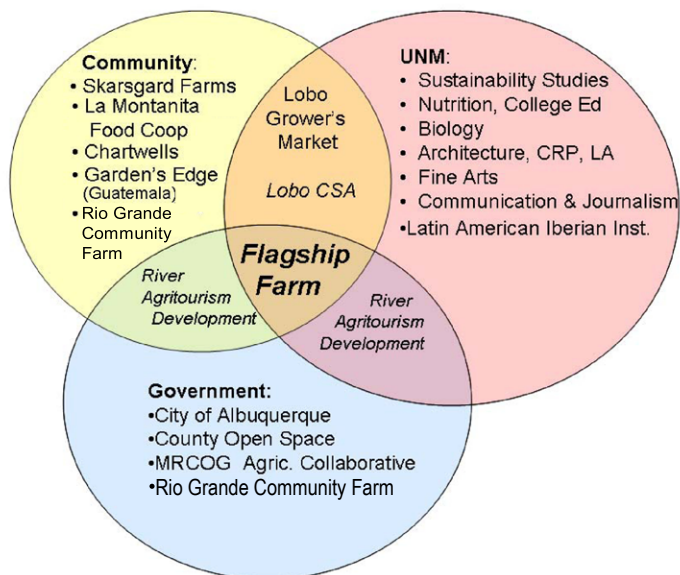
- Diverse production to maximize future career profitability: sustainable produce, animal production, & value-added products

orchards line entrances + drives

- Traditional sense of arrival to rio grande, orchards give way to beautiful fields
- Sustainable planning and architecture techniques applied

unm flagship farm school

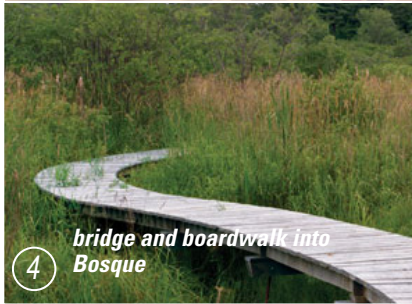
- 2-acre campus Flagship Farm: UNM in partnership with Skarsgard Farms,
- Incubator format: connect UNM, local governments, and community food developers
 - *Fields serve restaurant and farm store, which support school as self-sustaining entity, existing grant proposals to USDA and Kellogg Foundation may help with start-up*
 - *Multi-disciplinary working studio groups develop various training programs, studies, and start-up enterprises (see diagram)*
 - *Collaboration with South Valley Economic Development Center could extend education and business incubation*
 - *Connect the unm campus to the businesses and nonprofit organizations associated with development that share economic and social agendas that support families in Albuquerque*
 - *Be a portal to the local food system and illuminate career paths for our students in many sectors*
 - *Have a graduate research component about resilient landscapes in New Mexico to face the challenges that climate change is presenting for the agricultural heritage and tourism value of the state*
 - *Function much as a library to serve academic interests across the curriculum*
 - *Include a student-run community supported agriculture project to bring organic food to students, faculty & staff*







⑥ dining on a patio overlooking the Bosque



④ bridge and boardwalk into Bosque



⑤ interpretive/education monuments



③ restaurant supplied by fields



② agricultural fields



① tree-lined drive from hispanic cultural center and into site

bridge crossing zone - urban agricultural center

- private property illustrated as an example of private-public partnership opportunity for showcasing agricultural heritage and historic connection to the Rio Grande
- showcase agricultural practices and rio grande role in irrigation, linking processes from arrival to site transitioning to the river
- establish a parcel large enough to allow a development of a traditional sense of arrival to rio grande
- link to hispanic cultural center and their youth educational programs
- serve barelas railroad park
- develop future link with rail yards redevelopment project along rails







rio grande water education

- Water treatment plant area proposed as a showcase site - educational site for San Juan Chama Drinking Water Project and wetland treatment of water for agriculture, restoration and other innovative practices.
- Potential for City / UNM business incubator project: large world agricultural need today for finding new sources for phosphorus, an essential component of fertilizer, and abundant in waste. Pilot study for phosphorus extraction.

Other water education sites to consider:

- Valle del Oro: USFWS and AMAFCA are currently designing a stormwater wetland on and adjacent to the Valle Del Oro.
- Diversion Dam (south of Alameda near the Paseo del Bosque): an intake area for the San Juan Chama Drinking Water Project





valle de oro national wildlife refuge - link urban agricultural / restaurant / rio grande state park lodge

- Potential for traditional and dramatic sense of arrival to Rio Grande, a tree-lined drive through reserve to nature center
- Showcase agricultural benefits from adjacency to preserved land through interpretative trails and educational programs such as youth camps.
- Create an environmentally-oriented, New Mexico destination for locals and tourists in the South Valley.

Images:

1) A road lined with native cottonwoods could be created to lead visitors into the wildlife refuge or other facilities in the area.

2) Agricultural fields could co-exist near the wildlife refuge.

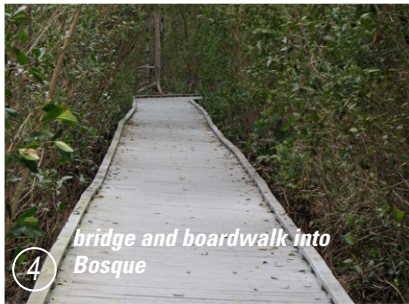
3 and 6) New facilities near RGVSP and Valle de Oro, like a lodge or restaurant, could be supplied from local fields, and would be convenient for visitors.

4) Accessible paths could be used to keep people in designated areas.

5) Interpretive exhibits could be used to educate visitors about the connection between urban agriculture and the environment in the Middle Rio Grande Valley.



6 dining on a patio overlooking the Bosque



4 bridge and boardwalk into Bosque



5 interpretive/education monuments



3 restaurant supplied by fields



2 agricultural fields



1 tree-lined drive from hispanic cultural center and into site



rio grande festival

- focus is the Rio Grande
- events organized to connect a wide variety of people to the river through fun recreation, education, and conservation activities
- makes use of event venues city-wide with transit connections to the main events on four corners of central
- float event put ins at points south of alameda diversion dam- with primary take outs at central
- event could expand/grow to become a week-long, regional destination event(s) that addresses environmental/economic development tourism topics including stewardship, culture, nature, water, NM food and agriculture, recreation.
- activities could include exhibits by land and water managers and stakeholders, restoration work, nature walks, scientific conferences, land and water competitions, and NM food and food trucks, music, art and culture





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.



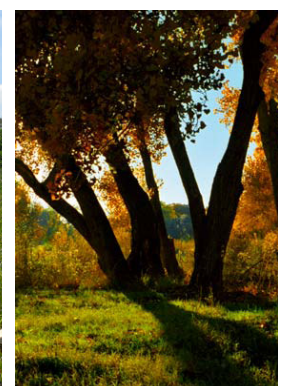
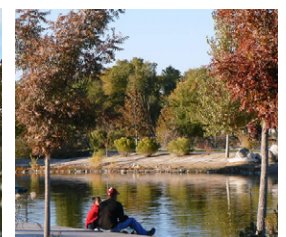
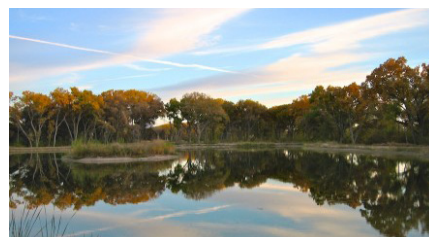
project identity

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 it's 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.

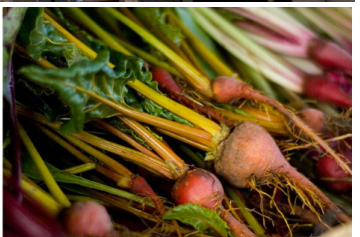
planning

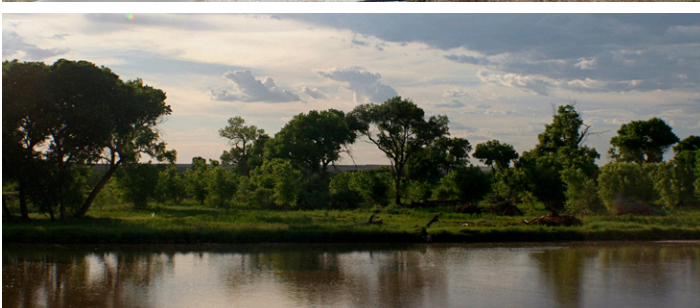
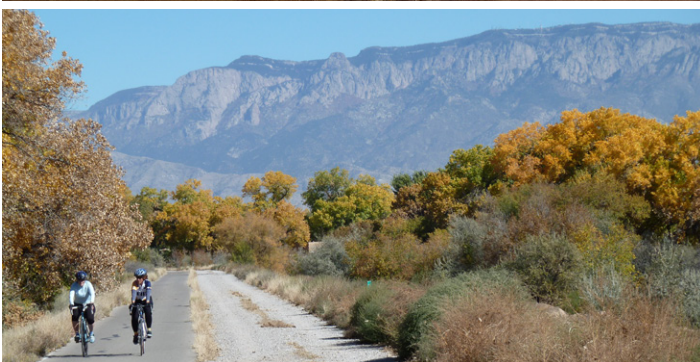
increase coordinated oversight of activities

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

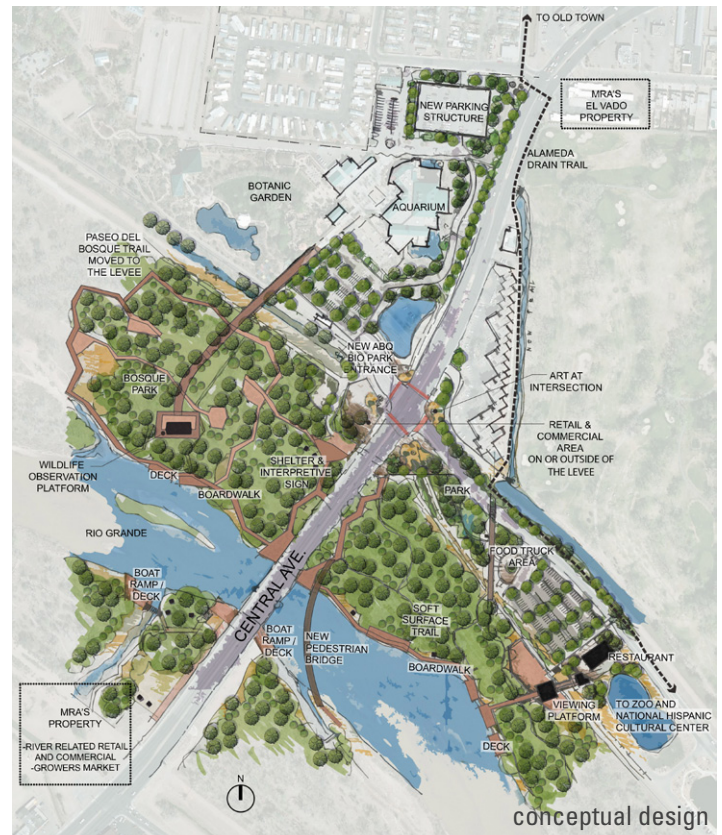
The Corridor Plan illustrates a wide variety of improvements along both sides of the Rio Grande from Alameda south to I-25 near the Pueblo of Isleta. Priority projects are listed here and in the Appendix, where there is a listing of small individual improvements by zone with estimates of probable construction 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

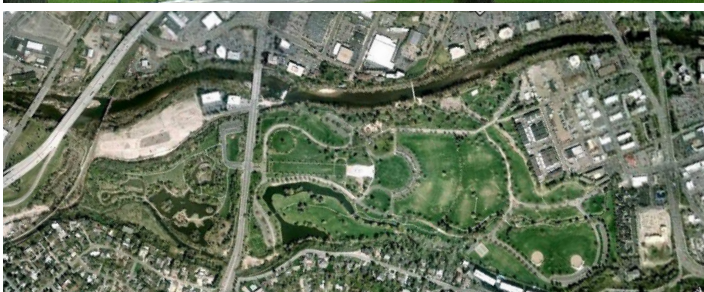
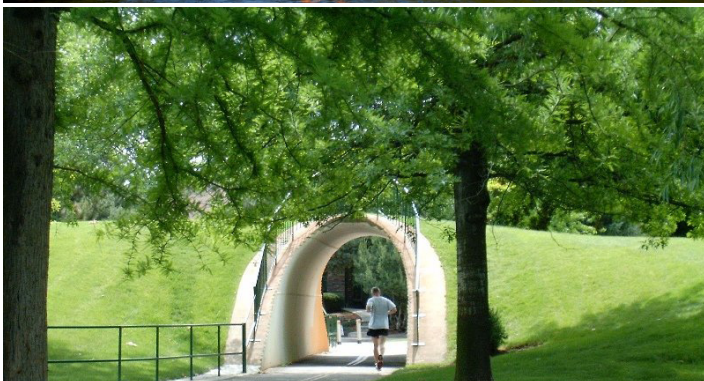
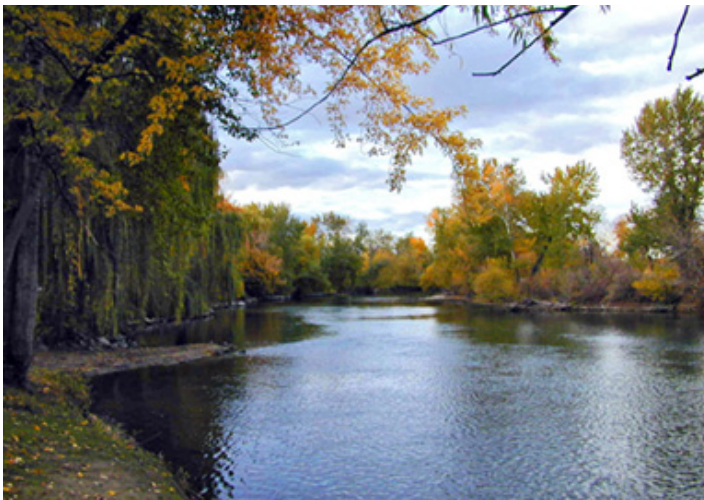
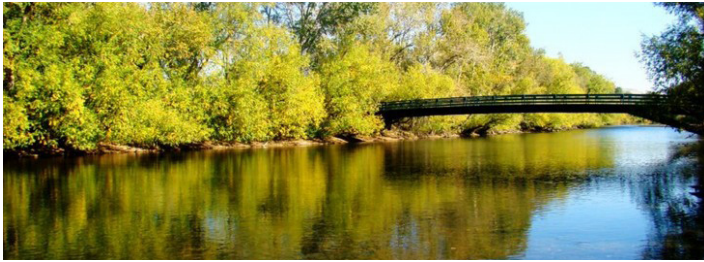




Healthy Waterways - South East Queensland, Australia (Brisbane - capital and largest city)

- 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.

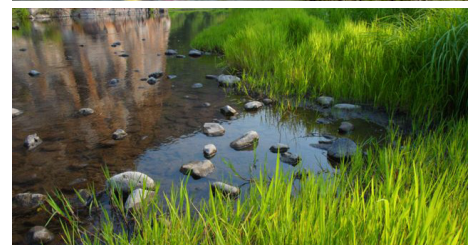
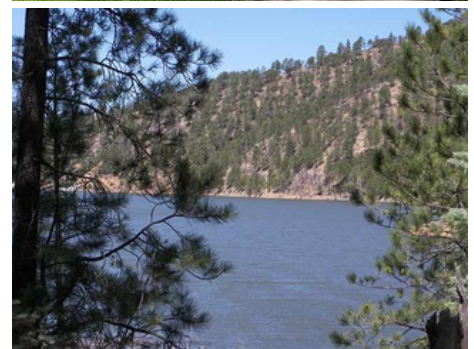
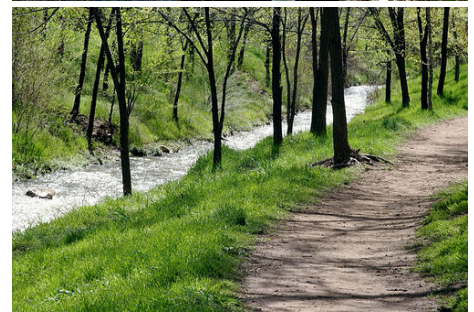
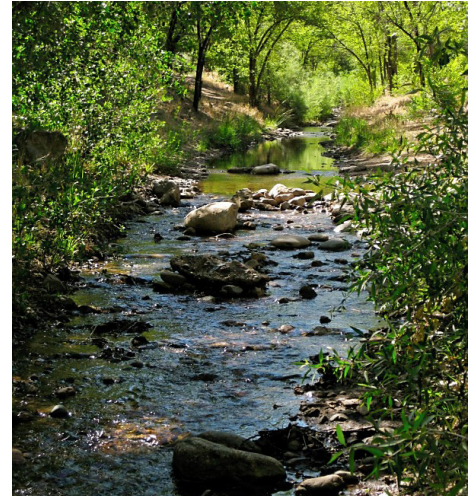


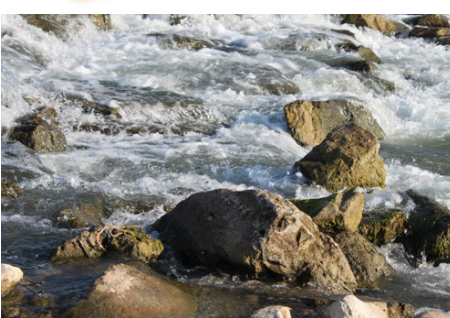
Santa Fe Water Fund - Nature Conservancy effort

- 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.



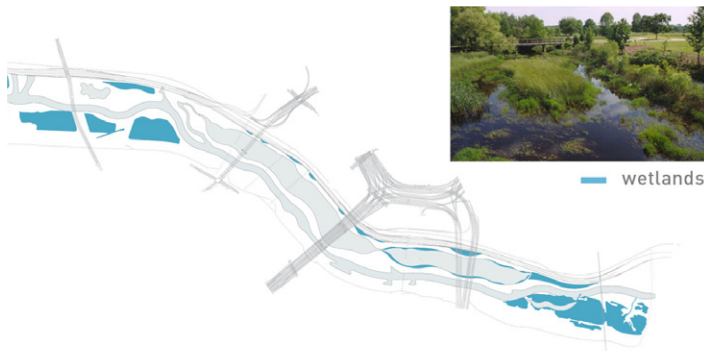


San Antonio San Antonio River Improvements Project

- 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

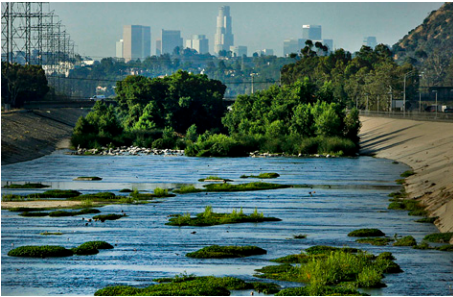
- Website – <http://www.trinityrivercorridor.com/index.html>
- Trinity River Corridor Project Implementation
 - *“The Trinity River Corridor Project is the most complex and the largest urban development effort undertaken by the City of Dallas. This multi-generational project provides critical flood protection, 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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project identity.....p. xvi

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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.

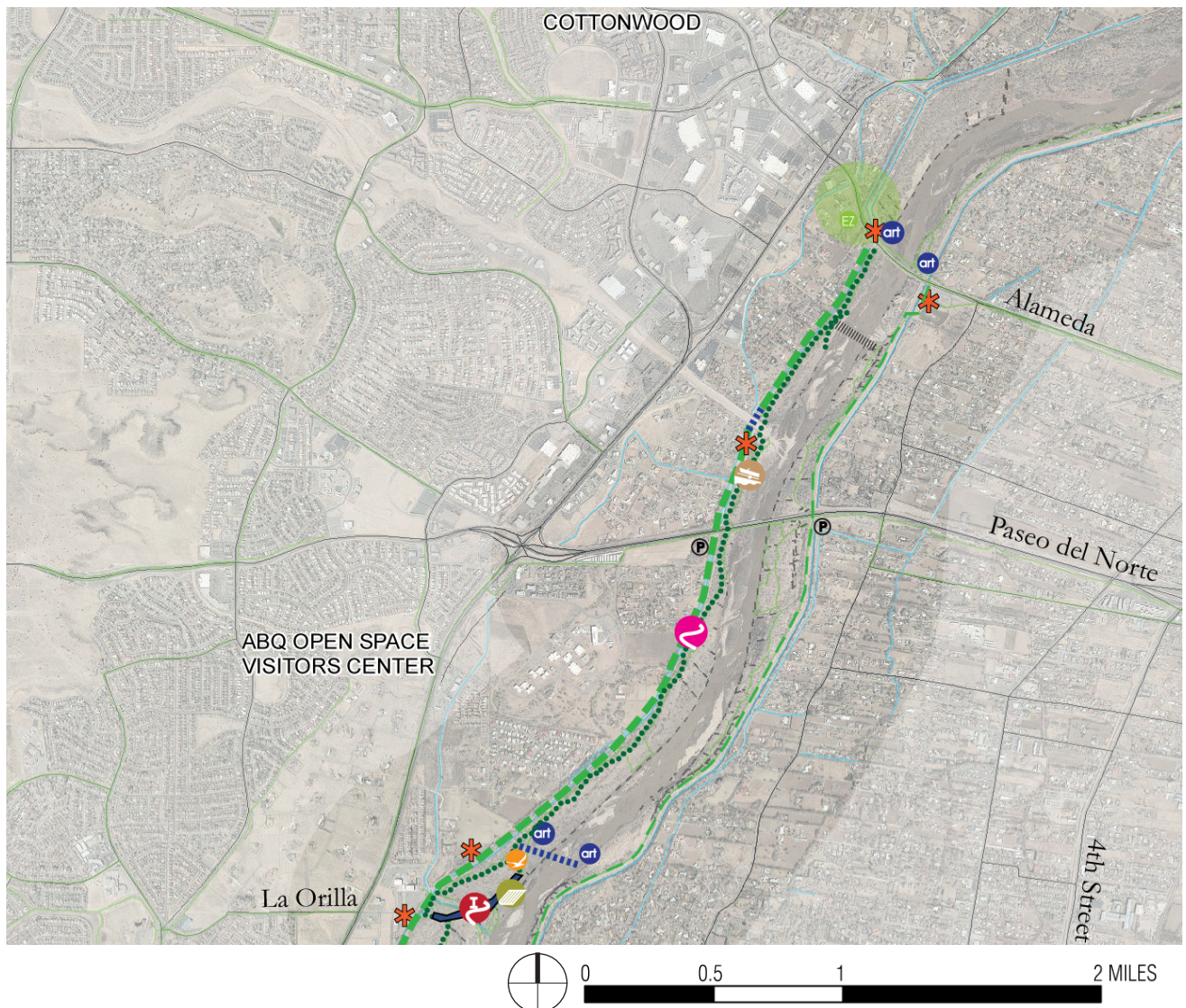




preliminary ideas on projects + costs

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

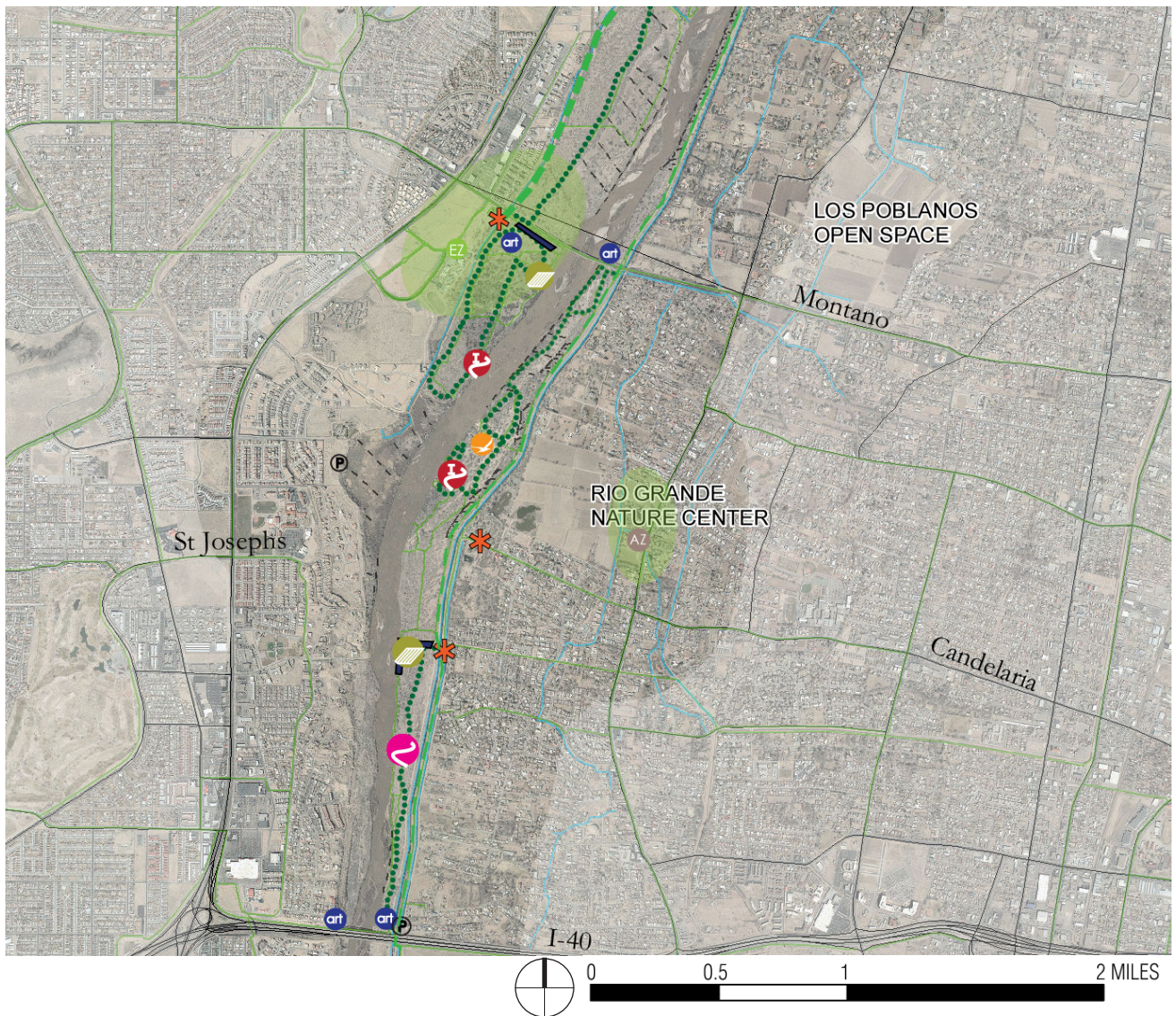
Consolidated trail+ restoration	\$367,500 (2.8 miles)
Jetty jack removal.....	\$15,000 (100 jetty jacks)
Public art at bridge	\$20,000 (2 pieces)
Education package (technology)	\$10,000 (1 package)
Wayfinding and signage package.....	\$20,000 (1 package)
Interpretive trail exhibit.....	\$200,000 (2 trail 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

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.

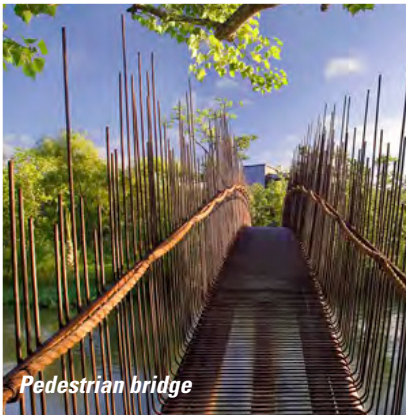
Details of Initial Phase Improvements

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)

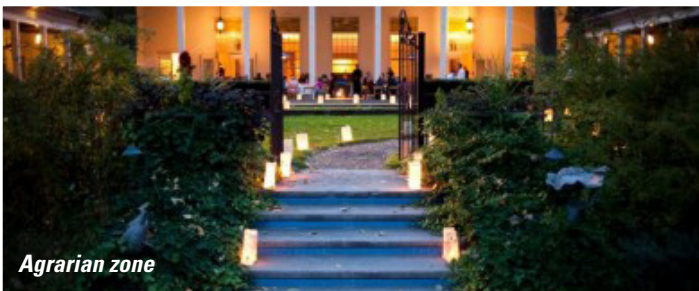
total for initial phase.....\$3,159,500
(includes 20% contingency)

Later Phase Improvements

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

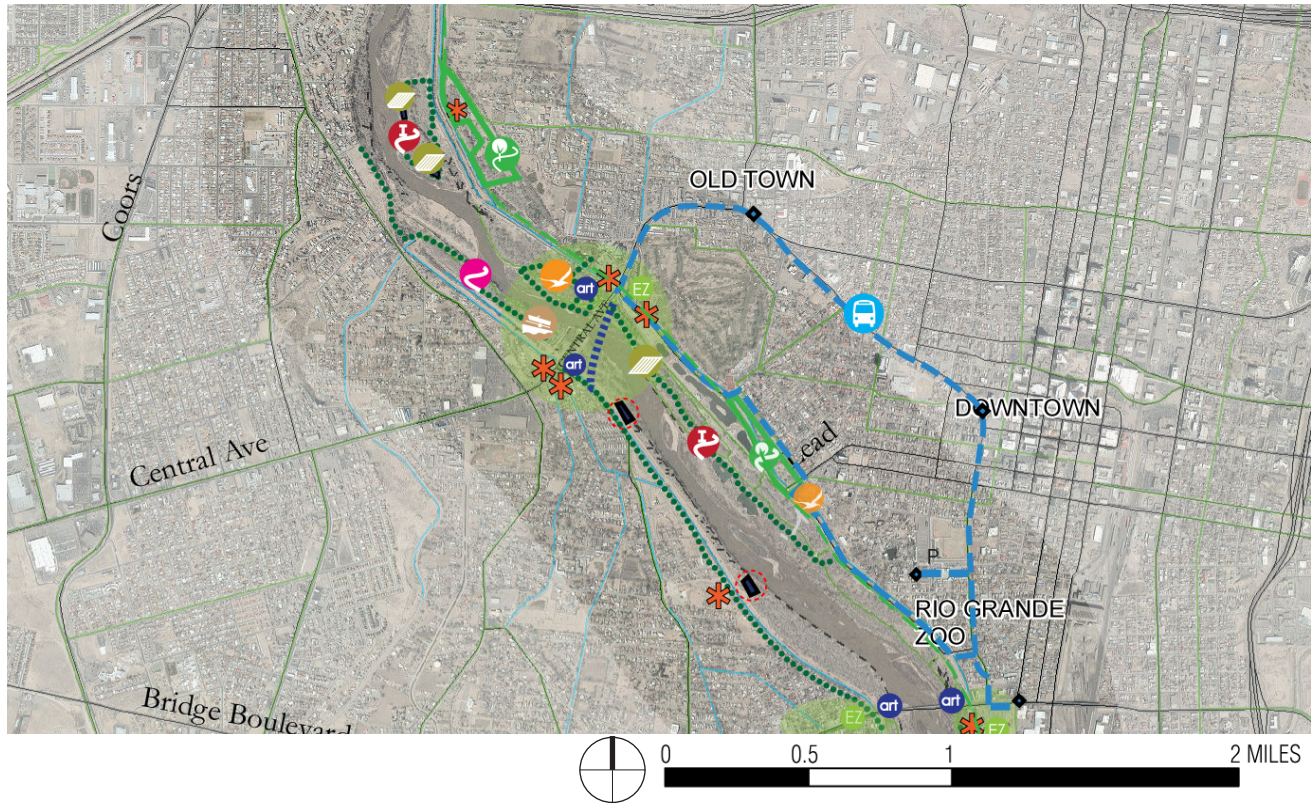


Pedestrian bridge



Agrarian zone





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

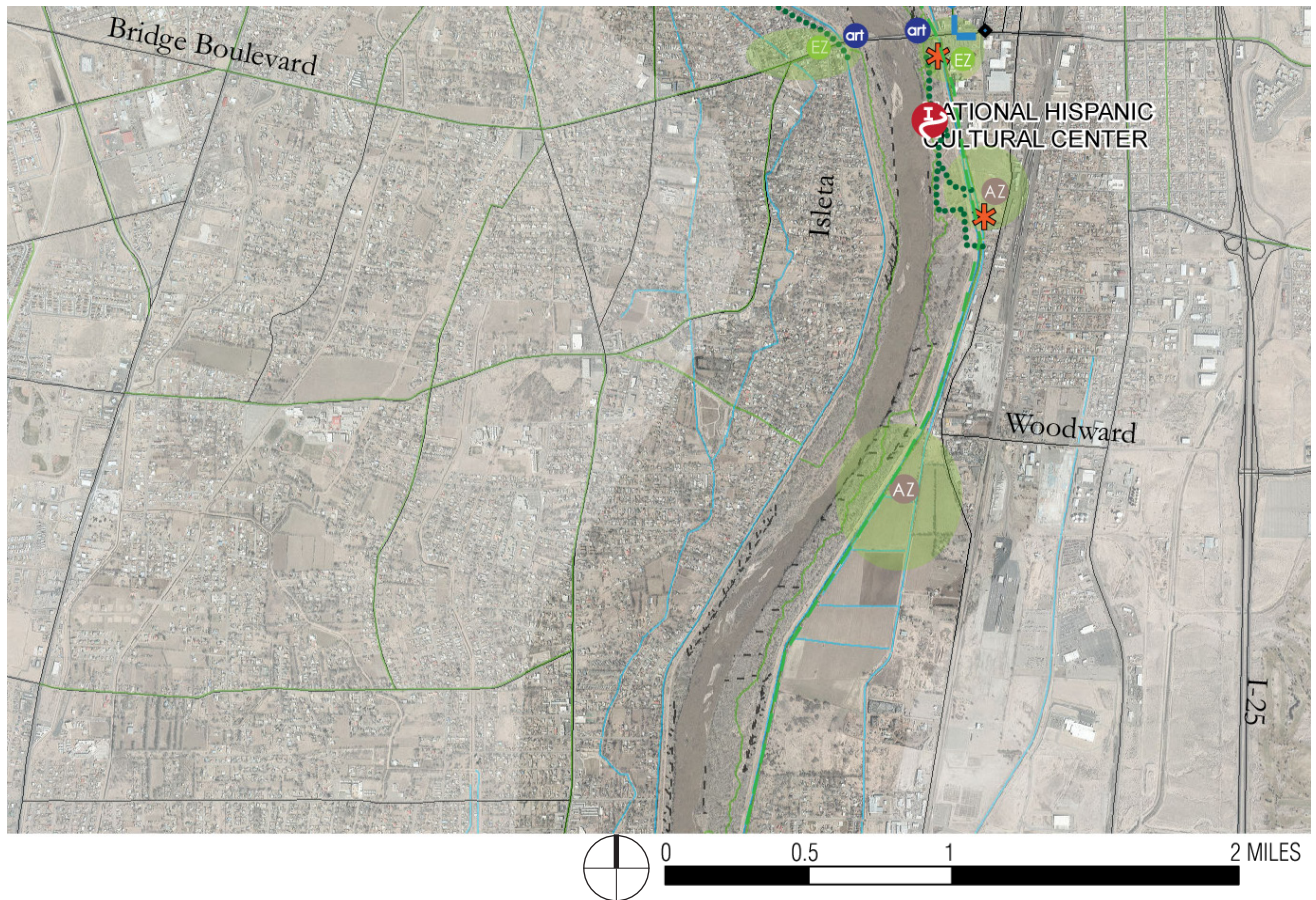
Consolidated trail.....	\$379,425 (2.9 mile)
Jetty jack removal.....	\$7,800 (52 jetty jacks)
Boardwalk	\$45,150 (225 linear feet)
Public art at bridge	\$20,000 (2 pieces)
Public art package in Bosque.....	\$25,000 (1 package)
Education (technology) package	\$10,000 (1 package)
Wayfinding and signage 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 Baretas Railroad Park.

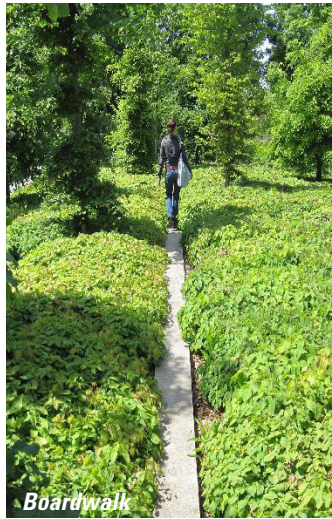
Details of Initial Phase Improvements

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



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.

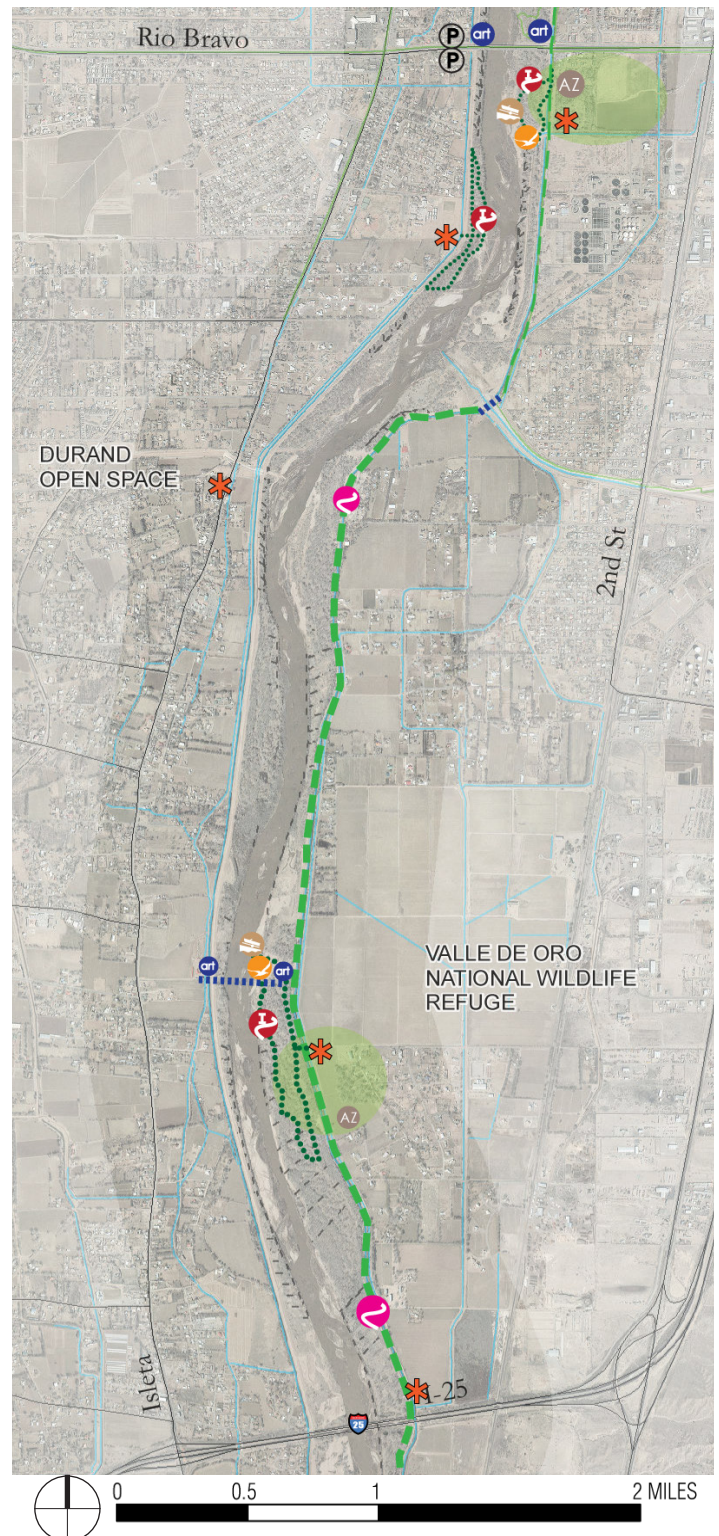
Legislative Districts

- 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

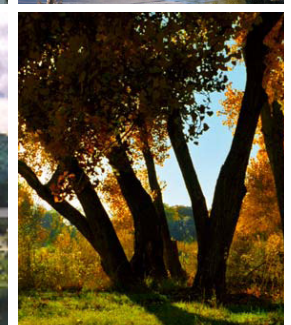
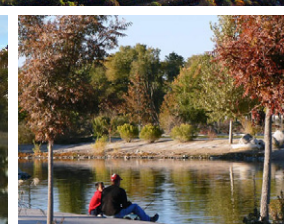
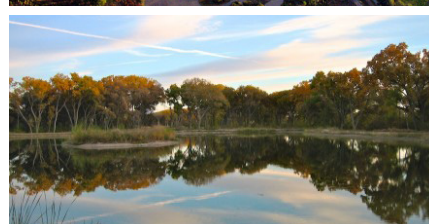
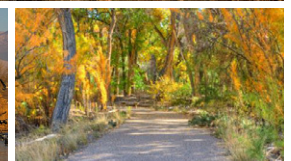
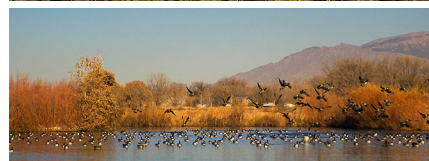
- river to become more of a part of our local communities' daily lives through strengthening community links and public access to the City's waterfront
- become a more frequent destination for our visitors for the River
- improve the river environment and to foster a better understanding of it

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*



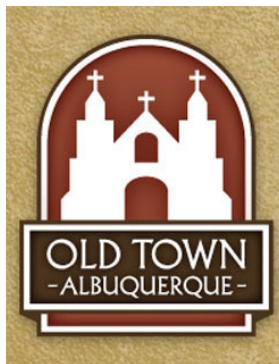
*city of albuquerque seal -
form evokes government*



*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*



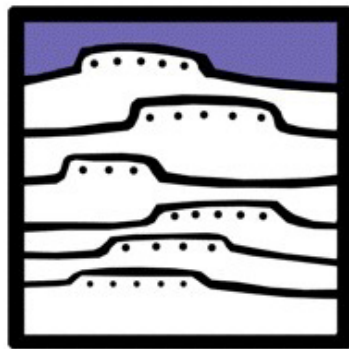
graphic precedents *new mexico logos*



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*



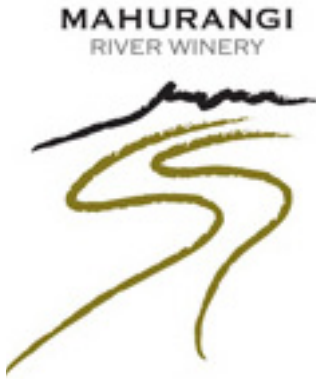
*(texas) -
government seal - identity
image*



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



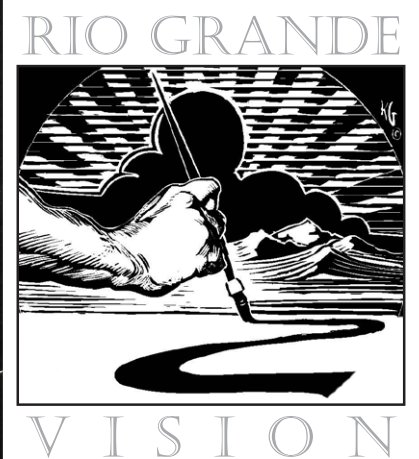
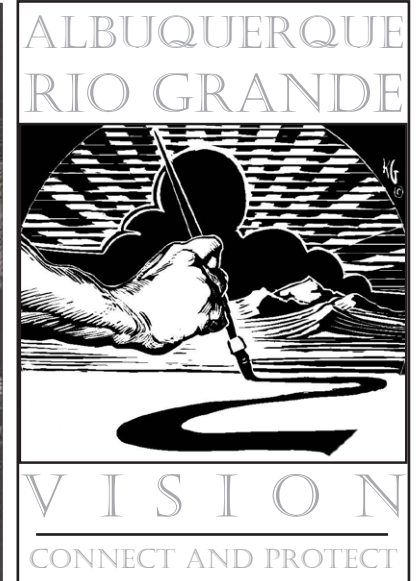
V I S I O N



preliminary proposal a *art style + variations*

art style - woodcut, southwest style

logo variations





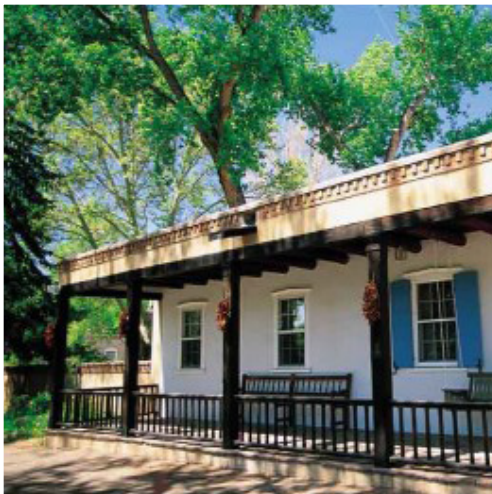
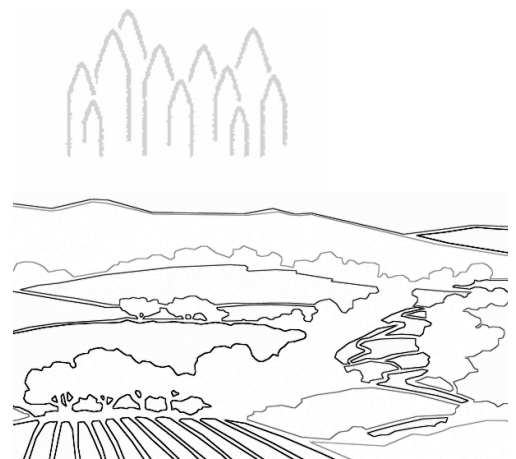
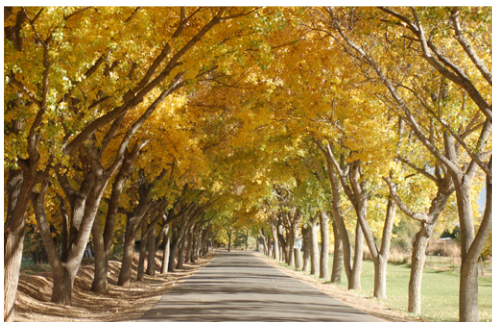
preliminary proposal b

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.



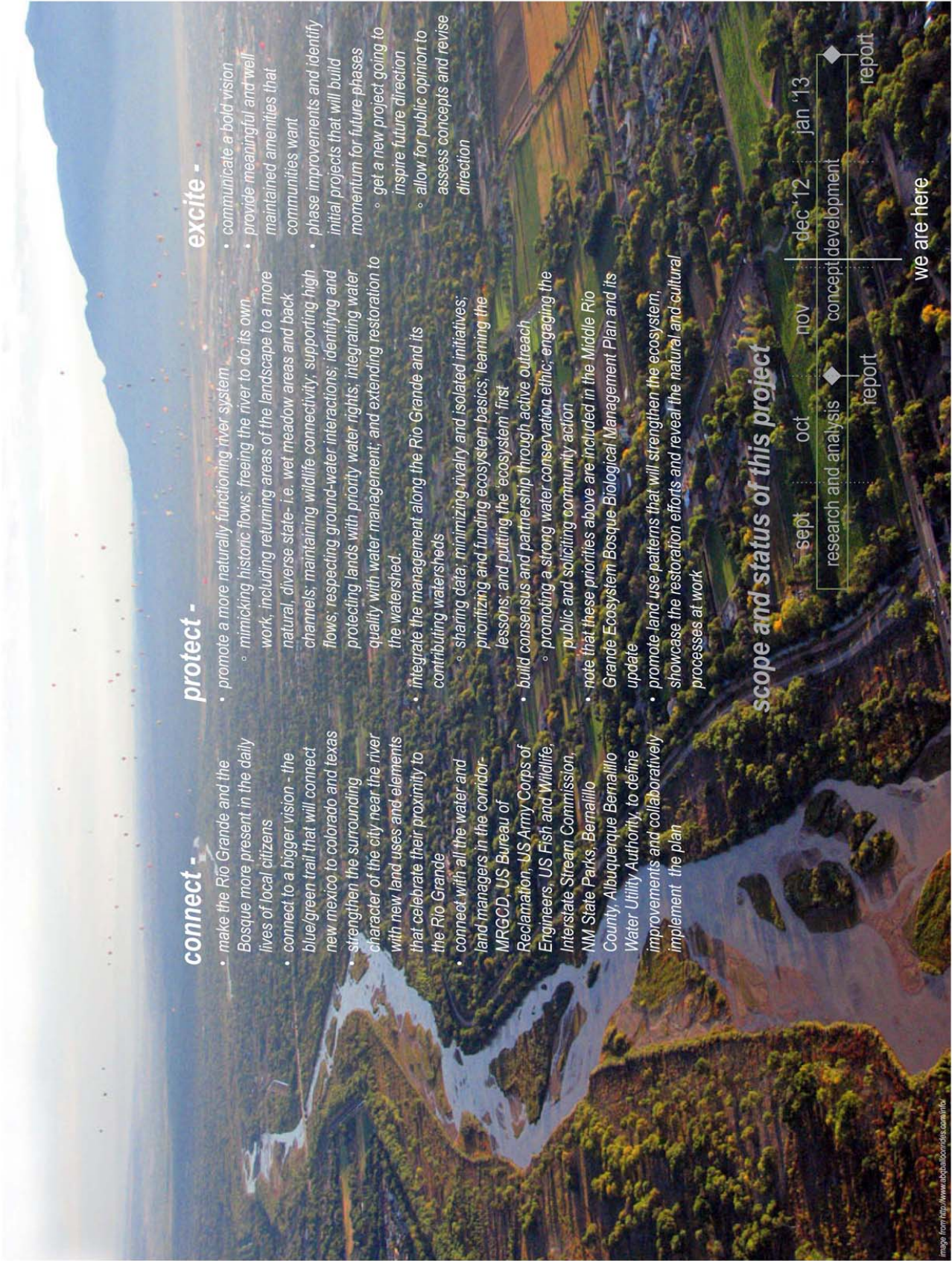


vision - connect to the wild - what do we want the rio grande to be in 30 years?

- 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

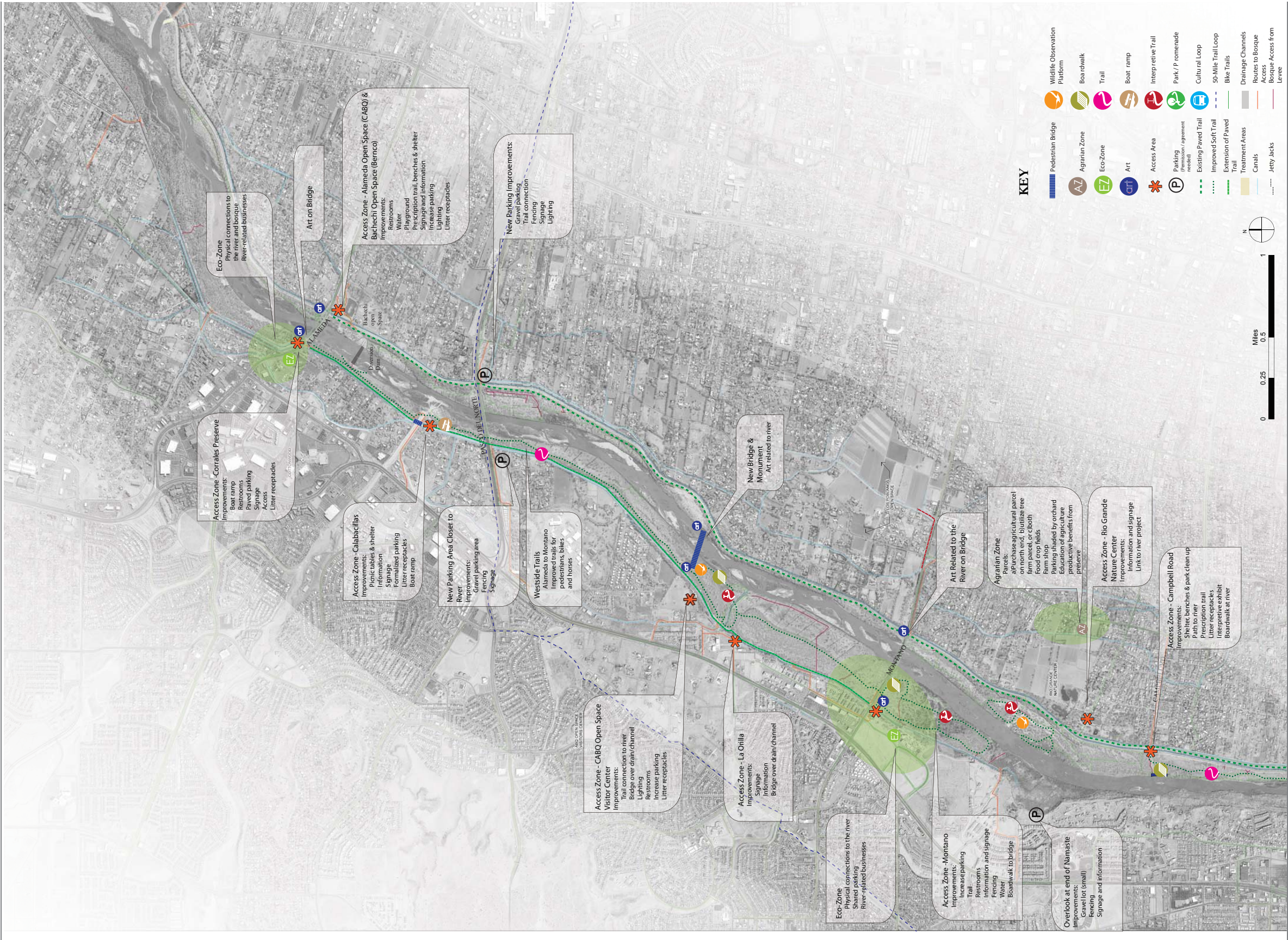
connect, protect, & excite

concept development elements		
 overlooked blurring objects	 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	 ecozones <ul style="list-style-type: none">• each zone is a unique ecological +/- for economic development opportunity• i.e. central crossing
 boat launches	 access	 restaurant with overlook patio
 boat launches	 pedestrian bridges <ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ connect west and east sides◦ provide views◦ low impact design	 restaurant
 boat launches	 access area <ul style="list-style-type: none">• consistent experience: hours, parking, amenities, signage and security• low impact design• education opportunity	 restaurant
 boat launches	 wildlife observation platform <ul style="list-style-type: none">• view of bosque and river• scientific monitoring• education• sculptural/artful• bird watching	 restaurant
 boat launches	 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"	 restaurant
 boat launches	 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	 restaurant
 boat launches	 interpretive trails <ul style="list-style-type: none">• showcasing restoration• educational/ecological monuments• interpretive trails• interactive exhibits• art• restoration	 restaurant
 boat launches	 art <ul style="list-style-type: none">• ecological and land art• cultural art• river related monuments	 restaurant
 boat launches	 facility infrastructure <ul style="list-style-type: none">• parking• restrooms• viewing platforms• seating/shelter• security	 restaurant

ABQ THE PLAN: THE RIO GRANDE VISION

connect, protect, & excite

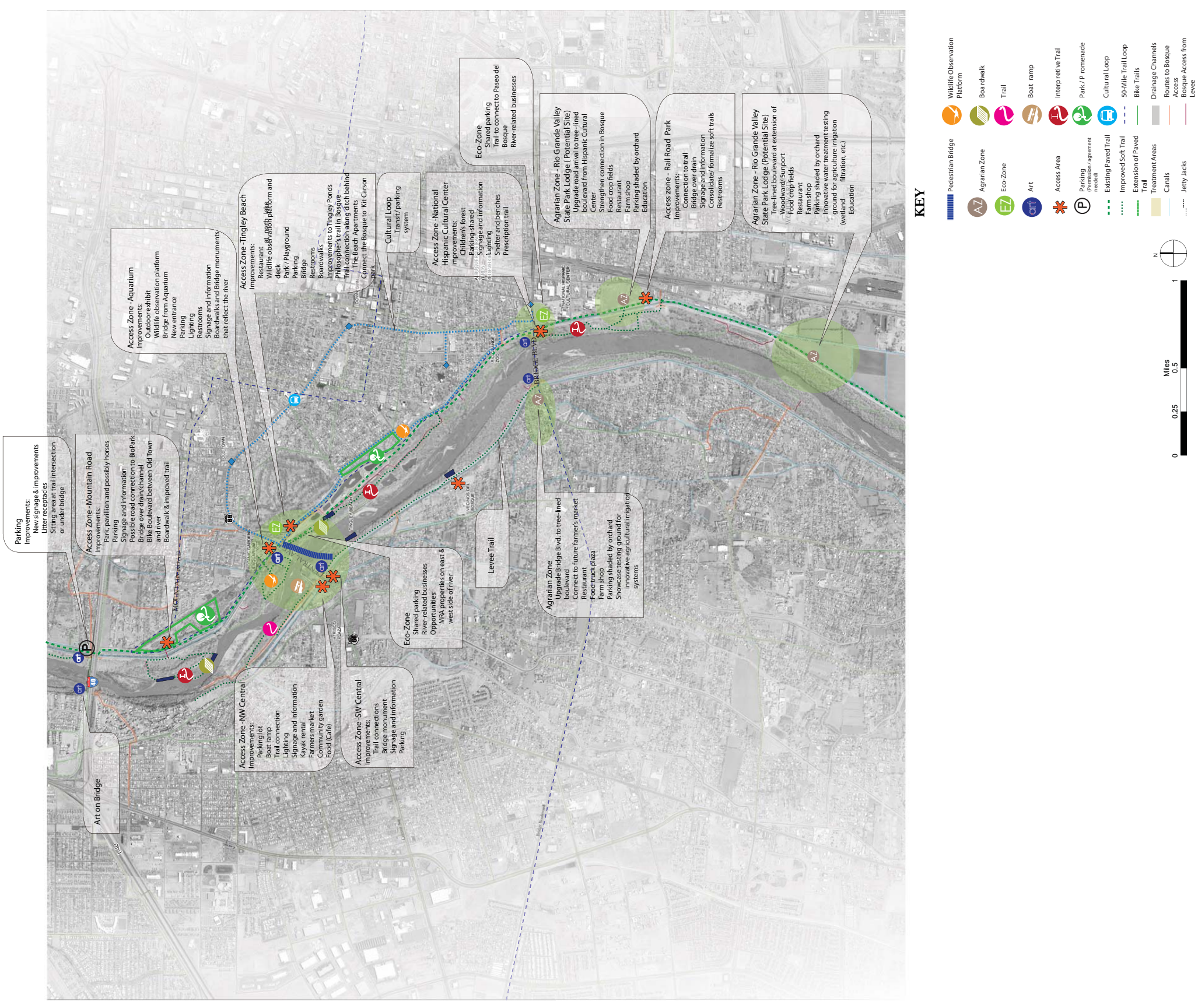
concept development | north



ABQ THE PLAN: THE RIO GRANDE VISION

connect, protect, & excite

concept development | central



ABQ THE PLAN: THE RIO GRANDE VISION

connect, protect, & excite

