



County of Los Alamos
BCC Meeting Minutes
Parks and Recreation Board

1000 Central Avenue
Los Alamos, NM 87544

Chair, Brian Watkins; Vice-Chair; Jerry Cowan; Jacob AlderseBaes; Paula Knepper; George Marsden; Summer Schaufler; and Ian Zollinger, Members

Thursday, August 14, 2025

5:30 PM

1000 Central Avenue
Council Chambers

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Watkins at 5:32 PM.

Present 4 - Member Cowan, Member Watkins, Member Zollinger and Member Knepper

Absent 2 - Member AlderseBaes and Member Marsden

Remote 1 - Member Schaufler

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

3. BUSINESS

[20523-25](#) Approval of Minutes from the July 10, 2025 Meeting

Attachments: [A - Minutes from the July 10, 2025 Meeting](#)

The minutes of the July 10, 2025 meeting were unanimously approved with one correction: 'Vice Chair Watkins' was amended to 'Vice Chair Cowan' in the adjournment section.

I move that the Board approve the attached meeting minutes from the July 10, 2025 meeting.

20524-25 Final Revisions to Policy 1735: Use and Rental of County Facilities/Land

Attachments: [A - Final Draft 1735](#)
[B - Final Appendix 1735](#)

Linda Lindstrom, Community Services Sr. Management Analyst, provided an overview of the most updated version of Policy 1735 and expressed appreciation to the community for their feedback.

Vice Chair Cowan commented on the proposed fee schedule and requested a revision to the wording related to the per-hour rate.

Public comment made by Lisa Reader, who raised several concerns about the document and inquired about the distinction between an index and a policy.

A discussion followed between County staff and the Parks and Recreation Board to address some of Ms. Reader's concerns.

The revised Policy 1735 was unanimously approved with the fee structure edit as discussed.

I move that the Parks & Recreation Committee recommend to County Council the revised Policy 1735: Use and Rental of County Facilities/Land, with the fee structure edit as discussed.

Yes: 5 - Member Cowan, Member Watkins, Member Zollinger, Member Schaufler and Member Knepper

Absent: 2 - Member AlderseBaes and Member Marsden

20528-25 Presentation on Open Space and Trails Management Plan

Attachments: [A - Open Space and Trails Management Plan](#)
[B - Appendices Pt. 1](#)
[C - Appendices Pt. 2](#)
[D - Strategies - For Public](#)

Allison Long, Senior Planner with Sites Southwest, presented an update on the Open Space and Trails Management Plan project, outlining next steps toward adoption.

Chair Watkins and Vice Chair Cowan posed questions; additional questions were directed to staff, with responses provided by CSD Director Cory Styron.

Public comments were received from Craig Martin, Lisa Reader, Mike Steinzig, Peggy Dare, and Jody Schwartz.

I move that the Parks & Recreation recommend to County Council the Open Space and Trails Management Plan with the edits pending.

Yes: 5 - Member Cowan, Member Watkins, Member Zollinger, Member Schaufler and Member Knepper

Absent: 2 - Member AlderseBaes and Member Marsden

4. BOARD/STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

[20525-25](#) Chairman's Report - Presented by Chair Watkins

Chair Watkins provided an update on the roles of the Parks and Recreation Board and delivered the chairman's report.

[20526-25](#) Staff Report

Attachments: [A - PRB Monthly Updates](#)

Wendy Parker, Parks and Open Space Superintendent, provided updates on several ongoing projects. The North Mesa/East Park project is progressing on schedule, with substantial completion expected by August 31 and final completion by September 30. She also gave brief updates on the Open Space and Trails Management Plan, the 37th and Piñon playgrounds, the athletic field renovations and the Rose Garden fence.

Vice Chair Cowan asked a question regarding the plan for Brewer Arena.

Katherin Hudspeth, Recreation Superintendent, followed with updates on the Triathlon, Fair and Rodeo, and Golf Course. She announced that Dacotah Hofer has been hired as the new Aquatics Division Program Manager. The Aquatic Center pools are currently closed for maintenance throughout the month and will reopen on August 25. Hudspeth also provided an update on the new swim meet timing system.

Member Zollinger asked a question concerning the Golf Course.

[20527-25](#) Work Group and Task Force Assignments and Updates

Attachments: [A - Open Space Working Group Report](#)
[B - ELWG Report on Master Plans Aug 2025](#)
[C - ELWG Program Review](#)

Vice Chair Cowan provided updates on the Open Space Working Group and the Equestrian & Livestock Working Groups.

Public comment was made by Craig Martin.

5. COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS

Councilor Reagor provided an update on the offer for the County to purchase the School of Gymnastics on North Mesa and relayed public feedback requesting improved access and more available tee times at the Golf Course.

Member Zollinger asked a question for staff regarding this update, which was answered by Cory Styron, CSD Director.

6. PREVIEW OF NEXT MEETING

McKenzie Vaupel, Parks and Open Space Senior Office Specialist, noted that the Guaje Pines Cemetery Master Plan Update will be on the next agenda. Chair Watkins added that there will be further review of the Open Space and Trails Management Plan.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Watkins adjourned the meeting at 6:44 PM.

If you are an individual with a disability who is in need of a reader, amplifier, qualified sign language interpreter, or any other form of auxiliary aid or service to attend or participate in the hearing or meeting, please contact the County Human Resources Division at 505-662-8040 at least one week prior to the meeting or as soon as possible.

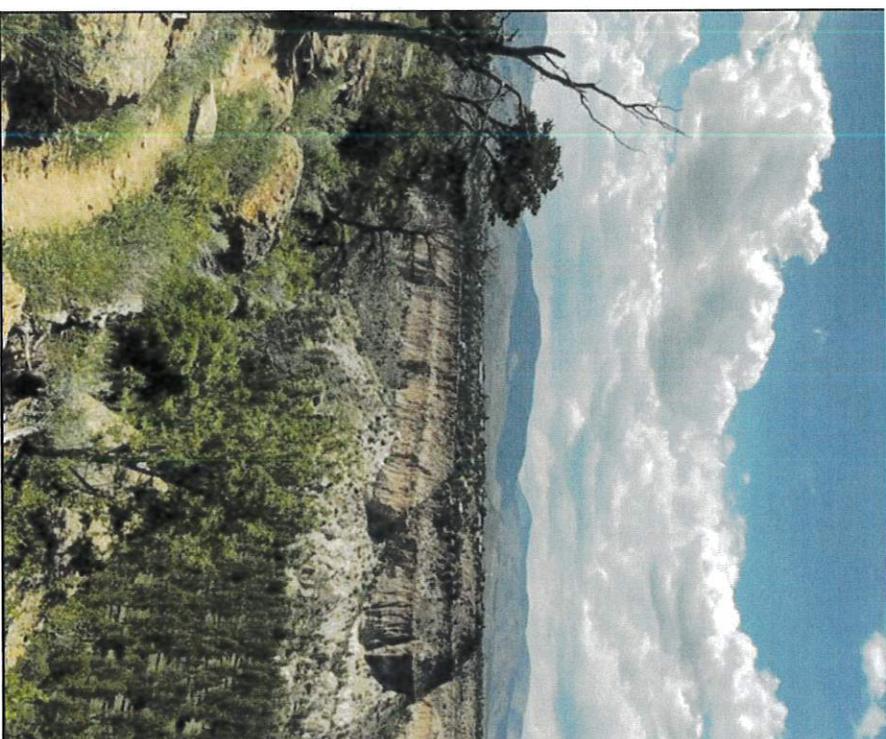
Public documents, including the agenda and minutes can be provided in various accessible formats. Please contact the Community Services Department at 505-662-8241 if a summary or other type of accessible format is needed.

*Received
at August 14 meeting*

LOS ALAMOS COUNTY

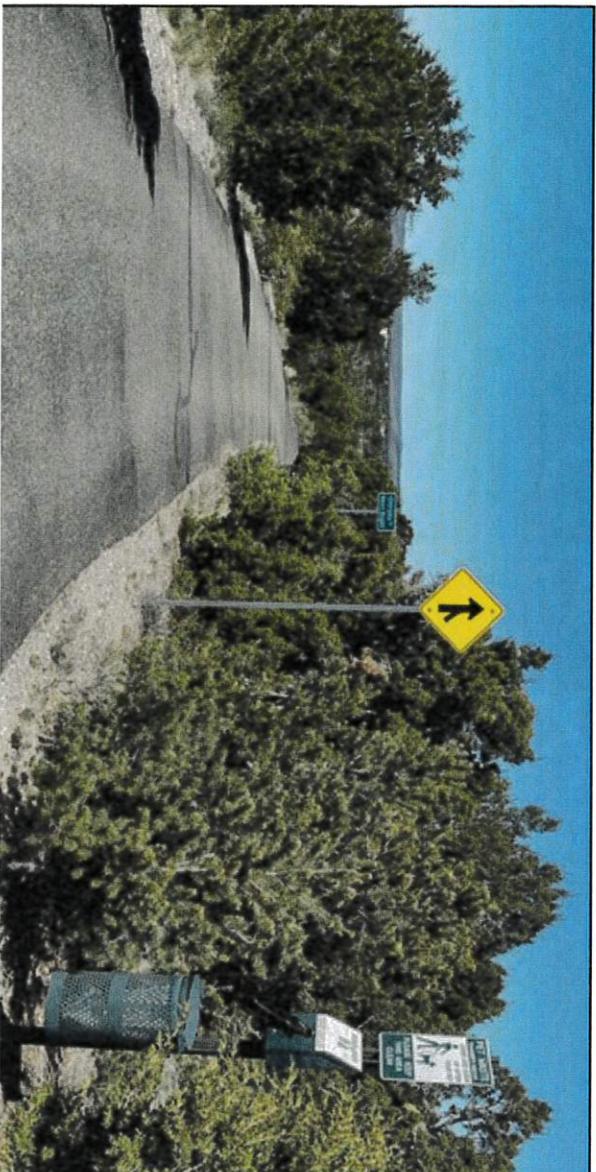
Open Space & Trails

MANAGEMENT PLAN



August 14, 2025

Agenda



- INTRODUCTION
- PROJECT TIMELINE
- COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
- KEY CHANGES & IMPROVEMENTS
- QUESTIONS

Meet Our Team

ALLISON LONG
PROJECT MANAGER



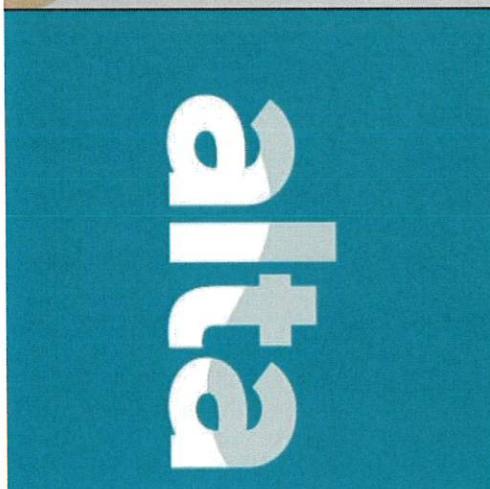
BOB OBERDORFER
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT



DANIELLE WILSON
PLANNER



ALTA
GIS & MAPPING



Plan Purpose



"It is the desire of this project to create a single document for managing the open space and trails in the County for all the diverse interests of users."

A comprehensive trails and open space management plan that consolidates and reconciles recommendations and best practices from previous planning efforts.

Project Timeline



April - August 2024

01

- Project Kickoff
- Site Evaluation
- Listening Sessions
- Community Workshop

August - December 2024

02

- Analyze Engagement Feedback
- Draft Plan Update
- Staff Review and Feedback

December - August 2025

03

- Presentation to Community
- Revisions
- Publish Draft & Receive Input
- Final Hearing for Approval

What We Heard

TRAIL & OPEN SPACE MAINTENANCE

Residents want the County to prioritize maintaining the trails and open space amenities it already has before adding anything new.



OPEN SPACE PROTECTION & RESTORATION

The natural landscape is highly valued by residents; they want to ensure it is protected and restored.



SAFETY & ACCESSIBILITY

Trails and amenities should be made fully accessible where appropriate; there should be more education and resources to ensure user safety.



AMENITIES & IMPROVEMENTS

Some improvements & amenities are needed, especially for bicyclists, accessible trail connections, and trailhead amenities.



How We Heard

LISTENING SESSIONS & COMMUNITY WORKSHOP

May & June 2024
-In person & virtual
August 2024
-In person



PROJECT WEBSITE COMMENT FORM SURVEY

Aug - Sept 2024
-Digital survey



PRESENTATIONS OF CHANGES

Jan 2025 &
Feb 2025 (OSWG)
-Both virtual

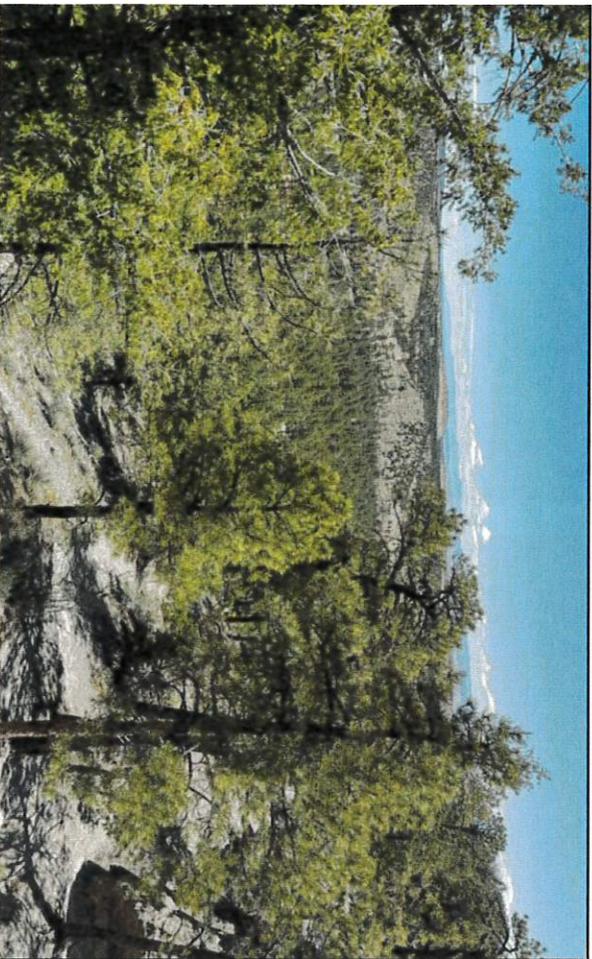


DRAFT REPORT & PRIORITIES PUBLIC RELEASE

Release date: 7/3
County Social Media
Email Blast
Posted on project website



Plan Structure



State of the Network

- Inventory
- Maps
- Amenities
- Gaps Analysis

01

Public Process & Changes

- Engagement Events & Input Summary
- Explanation of changes + new strategies

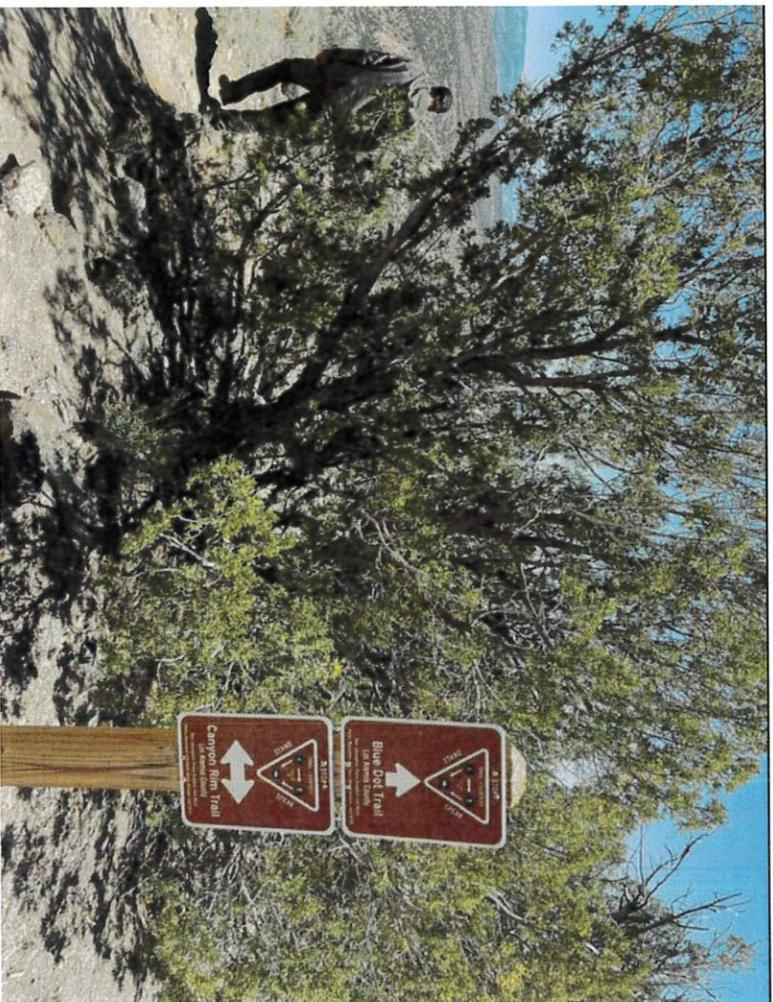
02

Consolidation & Reorganization

- Strategy Alignment
- Streamline the document
- Preserve key sections of past plans

03

Key Strategies



**Open Space
Maintenance &
Improvements**

**Public Education
& Engagement**

**Improved
Accessibility**

**Trail Maintenance
& Improvemnets**

**Network Signage &
Wayfinding**

**Data Maintenance
& Reporting**

Approach

TRAILS & OPEN SPACE DIVISION

Currently staff are managing **160+ existing strategies**, actions and goals across **6 different plans** created across the last 10+ years

CONFLICTS

Remove conflicting language across plans and resolve conflicts with new language

REDUNDANCIES

Identify **redundant language** across plans and replace with one representative strategy

NEW

Based on public input, **provide new strategies** as needed

Summary

Conflicts

- 15 strategies resolved with 4 revised strategies

Redundancies

- 37 strategies resolved with 11 revised strategies

Conflicts

- Accessibility (4)
- Signage (3)
- Social Trails (6)
- Conservation (2)

Redundancies

- Resource Protection (8)
- Connectivity (5)
- Trail Difficulty (5)
- New Development (2)
- Volunteers (2)
- Vistas (4)
- Alternate Transportation (2)
- Signage (2) & Junctions (2)
- User Groups (5)

New

- Open Space (1)
- Trail Maintenance (3)
- Public Education & Engagement (5)
- Signage (3)
- Accessibility (4)

Moving forward



01

Plan includes updates
(Most recent plan update was in 2022)

02

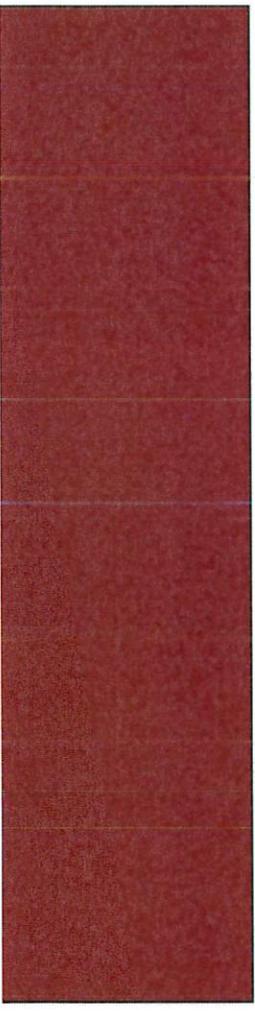
Staff has a more streamlined document & implementation plan *(short, medium, long-term timeframes)*

03

Staff and community has 1 document to update moving forward *(not 6)*



Questions?



Thank You!

For more information, scan the QR code to visit the project page:

<https://www.losalamosnm.us/County-Projects/Open-Space-Trails-Management-Plan>

