



Bernalillo County Greenprint



Bernalillo County Greenprint

The Trust for Public Land
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and protects land for people,
ensuring healthy, livable communities
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Preface

Acknowledgments

The Trust for Public Land gratefully acknowledges the many individuals and organizations that contributed their time and energy to the creation of the Bernalillo County Greenprint. This project was funded by Bernalillo County, and the county, particularly the Parks and Recreation Department, was a wonderful partner and co-convenor, bringing local expertise and a deep commitment to protecting open space.

Hundreds of people provided input that was critical to developing this Greenprint. Five people served on the core team, 11 people participated in interviews for this project, 21 people served as technical advisors, 58 people representing over 30 local groups attended steering committee meetings, 348 people participated in the online survey, and 410 people provided input via a countywide telephone poll. See Section 7 for lists of participants.



BERNICO OPEN SPACE

Tending to the garden

Project Partners

BERNALILLO COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT manages and provides programming for the county's parks, recreation, and open space resources.

THE TRUST FOR PUBLIC LAND conserves land for people to enjoy as parks, gardens, and other natural places, ensuring livable communities for generations to come. Since 1972, The Trust for Public Land has helped protect more than three million acres in all 50 states. The Trust for Public Land opened the New Mexico office in 1981 and completed its first project in 1982 in the Cibola National Forest. Our dedicated local staff has worked with local communities and federal, state, and county agencies to complete a total of 64 projects, protecting over 187,000 acres. In New Mexico, The Trust for Public Land focuses on three program areas: the Upper Rio Grande Watershed, Bernalillo County Agriculture and Open Space, and the Sky Island Grasslands.

Project Staff

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Message from Bernalillo County

Our open space program is very important to the quality of life for all residents of Bernalillo County. Together the city and county have been rated one of the top 15 urban areas for parks and open space in the United States. Ease of access to open space is an important consideration for many of the residents and businesses who have chosen to call Bernalillo County home. Consistent with these values, voters approved the 2014 mill levy which provides approximately \$1.35 million each year for 15 years to support protection of additional lands in the county as open space. In order to be the best stewards of this funding, we contracted with The Trust for Public Land to develop tools based on community input to help us identify high priority lands for conservation. As a result of 18 months of work and input, including a statistically sound telephone survey and five community stakeholder meetings, we now have maps that show high priority areas in the county for conservation and tools to evaluate potential projects for future protection. We will be working with conservation partners to identify projects that will protect additional lands. These efforts collectively will enhance the open space system in the county and ensure that we continue to do our part to maintain quality of life of the Bernalillo County residents into the future.

Vincent C. Murphy, Deputy County Manager for Community Services

Message from The Trust for Public Land

The Trust for Public Land is proud to have worked with Bernalillo County and many, many others on this Greenprint embodying our mutual goal to map out a conservation plan that captures the values of the community. With The Trust for Public Land’s “land for people” mission, we see this work as central to our desire to create healthy, livable communities for generations to come.

Our hope all along has been to work with the community members to define their conservation goals and priorities and to develop strategies to achieve those goals. We did not start this process to protect a particular place; instead, we built on community goals and needs, and focused on helping this process define future open space protection.

Bernalillo County has always been a priority for The Trust for Public Land. We are particularly proud of our work with the county and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to create the Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge – the first refuge in the Southwest that focuses on reaching out and engaging urban communities as part of its wildlife mission. We are also proud of our work with the county through our Conservation Finance arm to help with the successful passage of the 2014 mill levy to fund open space protection. The county has made great strides to protect what is important and is poised to make significant steps in the future.

We invite you to review this plan and think about what life will be like in this area in 10, 20, 30 years. Will the places your grandparents took you still be here in the future? Will the farms, mountain views, trails, bosque, and special places that surround us today endure? What can you do to protect them? We look forward to working with you all to help answer these questions.

Greg Hiner, Southwest Director for Land Protection

Executive summary

THE TRUST FOR PUBLIC LAND WORKED WITH the Bernalillo County Parks and Recreation Department and a diverse group of steering committee members to develop the Bernalillo County Greenprint. A telephone poll of a representative sample of local residents played a central role in identifying the community goals for the Greenprint. This Greenprint relies on community input, local technical expertise, and The Trust for Public Land's state-of-the-art computer modeling to blend community priorities with science and research in order to identify lands with the highest value for voluntary conservation.

Local land conservation efforts were well under way before this Greenprint began. In 2014, with the help of The Trust for Public Land, Bernalillo County passed a mill levy to raise funds for open space protection. Following passage of the mill levy, the

county finalized the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan (PROS Plan) in 2015. The conservation prioritization that is part of this Greenprint process is a key implementation step from the PROS Plan. Work on this Greenprint began in the spring of 2016 and will be finalized in the summer of 2017. From the outset, the three objectives of this Greenprint were to (1) Identify and prioritize open space lands for conservation opportunities; (2) Develop a system for spending open space acquisition dollars based on both community values and the best available scientific analysis; and (3) Raise community awareness about the value of open spaces.

The Greenprint maps five goals that were identified based on polling and on input from the steering committee: (1) Protect water quality in rivers and streams; (2) Preserve local agriculture and food production; (3) Protect



KIM KURIAN

Horseback riding in Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge near Albuquerque, New Mexico

wildlife habitat; (4) Protect important cultural and historical lands and sites; and (5) Provide public access to healthy outdoor recreation. Each of these goals is deeply important to county residents.

There are priority areas for conservation in every commission district – from the most urban to the most remote parts of the county. Water quality is the top community priority, but this plan is not just about protecting pristine areas for water and wildlife – though that is important. This Greenprint is about protecting the living, breathing heart of what makes Bernalillo County so special – and that includes protecting a range of cultural sites; expanding access of the county’s diverse urban communities to close-to-home open space amenities and programming; and preserving local agricultural traditions across the urban-rural gradient. Protecting historical and cultural sites is essential to preserving the county’s rich heritage and its living cultural traditions. Expanding access to parks and open space in the county’s most underserved urban areas is central to promoting equity and ensuring that all residents have access to the sense of well-being that comes from being active outdoors. And protecting imperiled working lands is crucial to ensuring that local farmers, ranchers, and community gardens can continue to support the local food system and help maintain Bernalillo County’s historic cultural traditions.

BERNALILLO COUNTY GREENPRINT



Trout Falls

1. Introduction

BERNALILLO COUNTY IS KNOWN FOR ITS SUNNY WEATHER, stunning landscapes, and rich cultural heritage. Nestled below the Sandia Mountains and cradling the Rio Grande Valley, one of three rift valleys in the world, Bernalillo County is the most populous county in New Mexico and, with the city of Albuquerque as the county seat, is home to over a third of the state's residents. Twenty-three miles of the Rio Grande flows through the county, and a diverse landscape of plains, mountains, deserts, and forests is found here. The county contains dense and diverse urban areas and rural areas abundant in ranches, farms, and open spaces. The solace and wonder of open space is less than a 30-minute drive for any county resident and is critical to quality of life in the county.

The purpose of this Greenprint is to develop tools to protect Bernalillo County's unique resources by identifying conservation opportunities that best meet community goals. In this Greenprint, local stakeholders came together to develop a strategic conservation vision to (1) Protect water quality in rivers and streams; (2) Preserve local agriculture and food production; (3) Protect wildlife habitat; (4) Protect important cultural and historical lands and sites; and (5) Provide public access to healthy outdoor recreation. Each of these goals is deeply important to county residents, and protecting open space that meets these goals will ensure that Bernalillo County is a vibrant place to live for years to come.

What Is a Greenprint?

Greenprints are community-driven conservation plans. Through the Greenprint process, communities make informed decisions about protecting important resources, including drinking water, cultural sites, open space, and working lands. The Greenprint process helps stakeholders work toward common goals using facilitated community engagement and state-of-the-art computer mapping and modeling. By determining where the greatest number of community goals can be met through conservation, Greenprint maps identify the areas that would get “the most bang for the conservation buck.”

Ultimately, Greenprinting involves defining a conservation vision, securing funding, acquiring key lands (or conservation easements on those lands) from willing landowners, and stewarding protected lands over time. The goal of a Greenprint is to facilitate practical, voluntary land conservation – bringing many voices into the conversation, employing the best technology available, and taking steps to ensure that implementation is effective. Setting conservation priorities through the Greenprint is a key implementation step from the 2015 PROS Plan.

A GREENPRINT IS:

- A set of tools (including interactive maps)
- A process to identify opportunities to meet multiple community goals
- A way to prioritize areas for voluntary, market-based conservation

A GREENPRINT IS NOT:

- A map of land use prohibitions
- Determined by one or a few perspectives
- Limited to protecting wildlife
- Related to condemning or taking land/private property

This Greenprint involved the following steps:

1. **GATHERING COMMUNITY INPUT** from countywide polling, steering committee meetings, and interviews;
2. **ANALYZING COMMUNITY INPUT** and working with the steering committee to determine conservation goals;
3. **COLLECTING DATA** related to conservation goals and translating it into a geographic information system (GIS) model with the help of the technical advisory team;
4. **WEIGHTING GOALS AND CRITERIA** based on community input and technical expertise;
5. **CREATING MAPS** (including online story maps) that reflect community priorities; and
6. **DEVELOPING AN IMPLEMENTATION PLAN.**

What Is Voluntary Land Conservation?

The Greenprint is intended to guide voluntary land conservation with willing landowners in Bernalillo County. The plan identifies opportunities to work with landowners to find win-win solutions that benefit landowners,

protect land for future generations, and help to meet community goals. This may mean working with willing landowners to purchase land outright (in “full fee”) or acquiring conservation easements for permanent protection.

Conservation easements have many different purposes, including preserving working farms and ranches or forests, protecting wildlife habitat, providing recreational access, or accomplishing some combination of all three. Conservation easements can help landowners continue to use working land for farming, ranching, or forestry and are tailored to the unique circumstances of each property and landowner. Through conservation easements, landowners either sell or donate some of the rights associated with a property (for example, the right to subdivide a property), but still retain ownership of the land and the ability to sell it or pass it on to heirs subject to the restrictions of the easement. As mentioned above, a landowner can be paid for the rights being sold (if funding is available), donate

them, or arrange a combination of the two. In the case of a donation, there can be both federal and state tax benefits.

Public Benefits of Protecting Open Space

Protecting open space means protecting publicly accessible parks and trails in addition to working lands and cultural sites. Protected open space provides a wide range of public benefits, including:

- Fostering stronger community identity through shared experiences and connection to open spaces;
- Improving community health through providing close-to-home opportunities for residents to spend time (and exercise) outdoors;
- Filtering drinking water and controlling flooding;
- Preserving living cultural traditions through protecting cultural heritage and historic sites;
- Cleaning the air and reducing levels of greenhouse gases tied to climate change;
- Protecting natural lands and wildlife habitat;
- Supporting sustainable local farming economies, preserving agricultural traditions, and protecting local production;
- Reducing urban noise pollution; and
- Providing opportunities for recreation that attract businesses and tourists who contribute to the economy.

Public Benefits of Protecting Water Resources

Waterways, such as the Rio Grande, serve many environmental, economic, recreational, and aesthetic purposes that can be undermined by poor water quality. Population growth and sprawling development threaten waterways. Polluted runoff from roads, parking lots, and subdivisions often contains oil, toxic metals, pesticides, sediment, nutrients, and other contaminants. As a result, it is important to preserve lands along significant hydrologic features like the Rio Grande, Tijeras Arroyos, farmland, and drainage facilities that are close to the water table. Land conservation is a powerful tool for protection of water resources. The most important areas for protecting water quality are typically forests, wetlands, natural grasslands, steep slopes, land close to or encompassing small streams, and land with erodible soils.

Forests, wetlands, and natural grasslands play a critical role in protecting waterways by absorbing and filtering water. These areas prevent surface water runoff by slowing water flow and help filter out sediment, nutrients, and other pollutants. Vegetation in and along the floodplains of streams and rivers absorbs water and nutrients and plays particularly important roles during storms. Wetlands are extremely efficient at retaining water and removing nutrients and toxins.

Guiding Principles

The creation of the Bernalillo County Greenprint was guided by the following principles developed by stakeholders and project partners:

- Develop a plan that reflects the goals of our diverse communities;
- Protect critical water resources, including aquifer recharge areas and riparian areas;
- Ensure the continued use of traditional irrigated agricultural lands and acequias and the protection of local foodsheds;
- Respect private property rights and support voluntary, incentive-based conservation efforts;
- Expand and improve wildlife habitat and wildlife corridors, especially critical environmental areas threatened by urban growth;
- Protect the landforms, viewsheds, cultural sites, and traditions that are central to our history and stories; and
- Conserve open space and recreation areas to connect residents and visitors with the outdoors and to attract jobs and tourists, making Bernalillo County a better place to live and work.

Vision Statement

We cherish our people from all cultures, our wildlife, our land, and our water. Our vision is a county where everyone has exceptional quality of life because our parks, trails, and open spaces connect us to the majestic mountains, diverse landscapes, flowing rivers, and thriving farms that feed us.

2. Bernalillo County overview

BERNALILLO COUNTY COVERS 1,161 SQUARE MILES IN CENTRAL NEW MEXICO. The county is surrounded by Sandoval, Santa Fe, Torrance, Valencia, and Cibola Counties. Bernalillo County encompasses the cities of Albuquerque and Rio Rancho and parts of several tribal reservations, including Cañoncito Navajo Reservation, Laguna Pueblo, To'hajilee Indian Reservation, Isleta Indian Reservation, and Sandia Indian Reservation. Unincorporated Bernalillo County includes portions of the South Valley, North Valley, Northeast Heights, West and Southwest Mesa, and East Mountains. Nearly half of Bernalillo County is under private ownership. Tribal lands cover one-third of the county, and the remaining 21 percent is public land. Currently, the county has 34,567 total acres of parks and open space. The county itself maintains 1,065 acres of parkland and 982 acres of open space.

Population and Housing

Bernalillo County grew 2.2 percent between 2010 and 2016, twice as fast as the state average. Nearly half of the population identifies as Hispanic or Latino, and nearly one-quarter of the population is under the age of 18. According to growth projections by the Mid-Region Council of Governments, Bernalillo County is expected to grow by 220,000 residents by 2030. Projections estimate that nearly half of that growth will occur outside city boundaries.

According to the PROS Plan, the highest growth rates are likely to be found in the Paradise Hills neighborhood, Mesa del Sol, Southeast Heights, and East Mountains. New development is likely to continue to drive significant growth on the West Side. Recent estimates show there are 289,000 housing



USFWS DEANNA NICHOLS

Bernalillo County landscape

units in Bernalillo County, 62 percent of which are owner-occupied housing units.

Unincorporated Bernalillo County includes portions of the South Valley, North Valley, Northeast Heights, West Mesa, and East Mountains. These areas are home to approximately 17 percent of the county's population (about 108,000 people). Within unincorporated Bernalillo County, working-age adults make up 60 percent of the population; the youth population is twice as large as the senior population; and over half (52 percent) identifies as being of Hispanic/Latino descent.

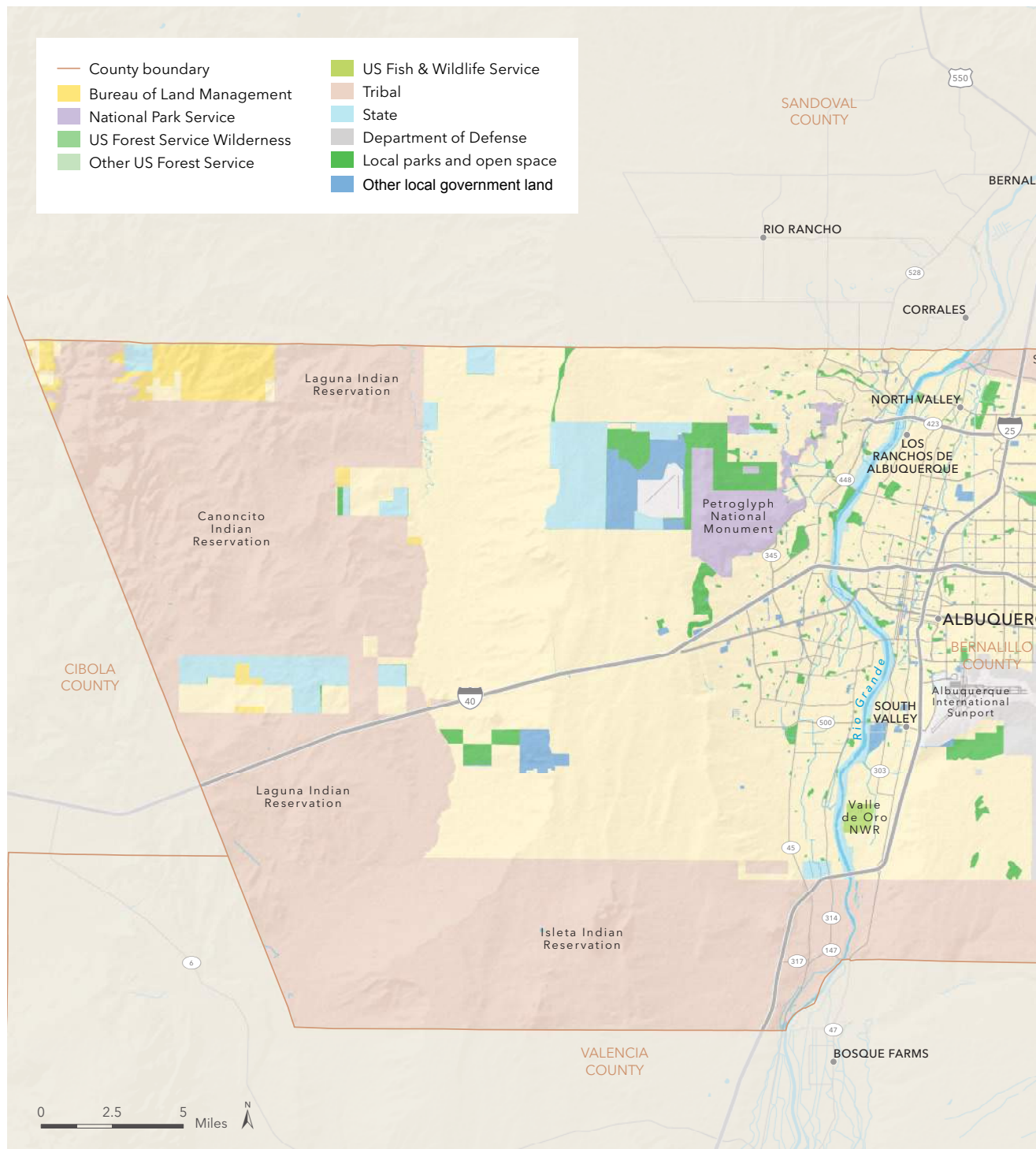
Economy

Approximately 20 percent of Bernalillo County residents live below the poverty level. The median household income for Bernalillo County residents is \$47,725. Local employment by industry has changed in the past few decades. Bernalillo County has seen the biggest percent change in the government sector (+13.7 percent, which includes military and federal, state, and local government employment) and services related employment (+7.6 percent) between 2000 and 2011. Growth in services-related employment can be attributed to growth in the following subcategories: real estate and rental and leasing; professional and technical services; educational services; health care and social assistance; arts, entertainment, and recreation; and accommodation and food services.

KENDRA MONTANARI

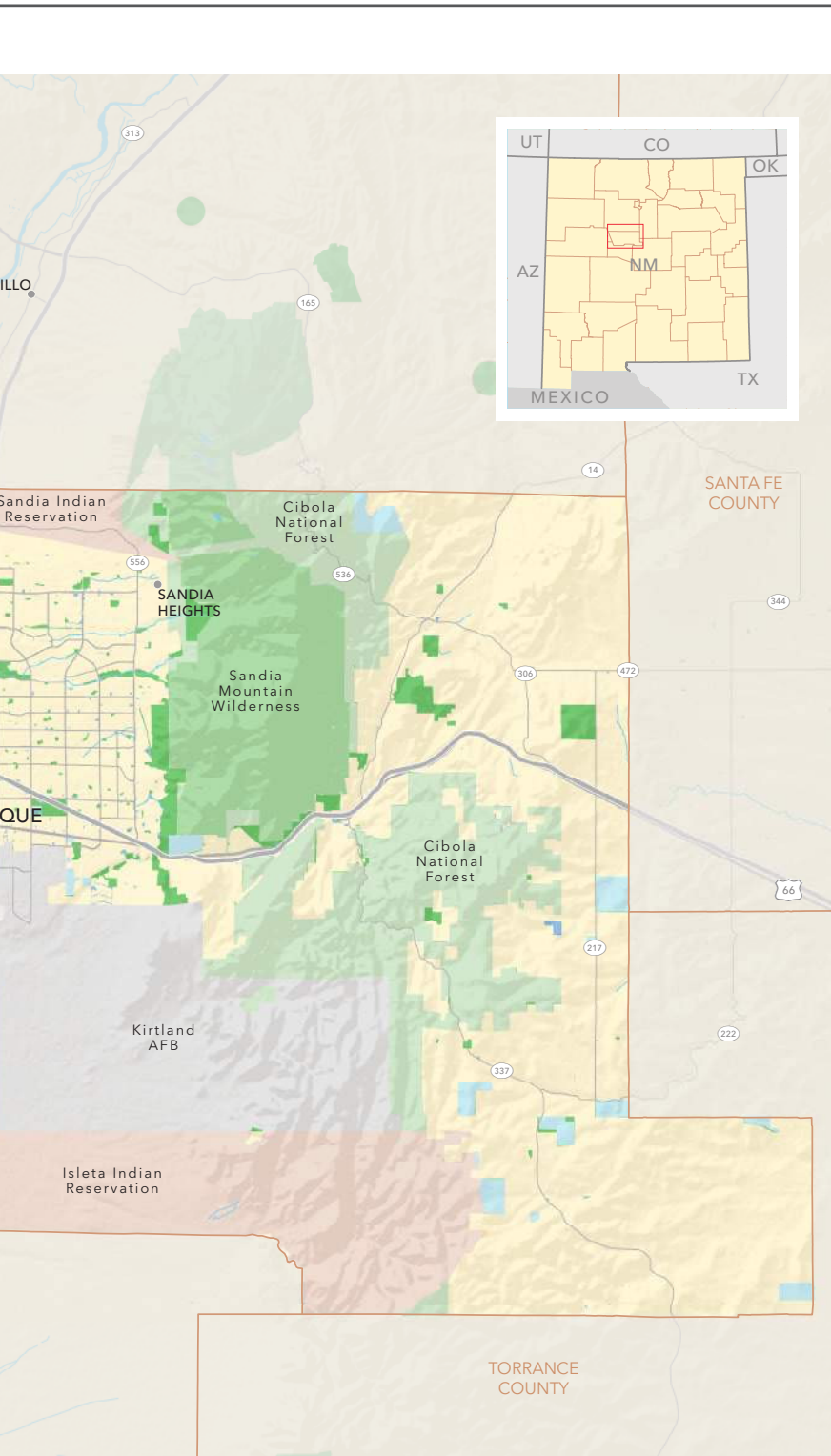


Downtown Albuquerque bike-share



Study area

BERNALILLO COUNTY GREENPRINT: A COMMUNITY-DRIVEN CONSERVATION PLAN



➤ **FIGURE 1** Special thanks to the following data providers: Bernalillo County. Copyright © The Trust for Public Land. The Trust for Public Land and The Trust for Public Land logo are federally registered marks of The Trust for Public Land. Information on this map is provided for purposes of discussion and visualization only.

Community Health

Worrisome public health trends in Bernalillo County include increasing rates of childhood obesity, heart disease, diabetes, and stroke. These health burdens disproportionately affect residents in low-income neighborhoods, African Americans, Hispanics, and American Indians. Life expectancy, low-birth-weight infants, community health risks, and environmental risks vary across Bernalillo County. For example, life expectancy in the county varies by more than 22 years across census tracts.

Furthermore, a 2012 report on health inequities in Bernalillo County created a Community Risk Index, calculated by measuring the following: percentage of population with less than a high school education, average standardized test scores, the violent crime rate, the foreclosure rate, the unemployment rate, percentage of houses that were vacant, and percentage of households with no automobile or with overcrowding. Data showed that a clear relationship exists between community risk index scores and health outcomes; when a neighborhood's community risk index is low, life expectancy is high.

Land Use and Ownership

The recent update of the Bernalillo and Albuquerque Comprehensive Plan addresses landownership patterns. Currently, one-third of the city is developable with a total of nearly 25,000 acres of vacant land (compared to the 57,000 acres of land that has already been developed). Table 1 shows current

landownership and land use in Bernalillo County. Nearly half of Bernalillo County is under private ownership. One-third of the county is tribal lands, and the remaining 21 percent is public land.

Neighborhoods

Bernalillo County is made up of a diverse patchwork of neighborhoods, including the South Valley, International District, Northwest, Paradise Hills, North Valley, North Albuquerque, Heights, Old Town/Urban Core, Central Urban, Southwest, Atrisco-Westside, Mountain View-Mesa del Sol, Pajarito-Los Padillas, North 14, and Los Vecinos-Carnue. Many of these are also Neighborhood Community Areas (NCA) as described in the PROS Plan. NCAs include several neighborhoods with common social and physical characteristics and a shared sense of community identity. These neighborhoods are described in more detail in online Appendix 6.

Water

"I love knowing where the river is and that it flows right through the middle of Albuquerque. Being close to the river is so important to me; when I leave my house in the morning I feel that the river is flowing from its headwaters near Creede, Colorado, and that it ends up in Brownsville, Texas."

—DIANE SOUDER, CHIEF OF INTERPRETATION AND OUTREACH, PETROGLYPH NATIONAL MONUMENT

TABLE 1. LANDOWNERSHIP IN BERNALILLO COUNTY

| Landownership | Bernalillo County (acres) | Percent of Total |
|--|----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Total Area | 747,000 | |
| Private Lands | 336,203 | 45% |
| Federal Lands | 113,072 | 15% |
| Forest Service | 73,329 | 10% |
| Bureau of Land Management | 6,756 | 1% |
| National Park Service | 2,971 | 0% |
| Military | 30,016 | 4% |
| Other Federal Lands | 0 | 0% |
| State Lands | 22,027 | 3% |
| State Trust Lands | 21,264 | 3% |
| Other State Lands | 763 | 0% |
| Tribal Lands | 226,727 | 30% |
| City, County, Other Lands | 48,972 | 7% |
| | | |
| Residential Development (2000-2010) | Bernalillo County (acres) | Percent of Total |
| Total Private Land | 336,203 | 44% |
| Total Residential, 2000 | 146,383 | 19% |
| Urban/Suburban, 2000 | 62,524 | 25% |
| Exurban, 2000 | 83,860 | 48% |
| Total Residential, 2010 | 162,789 | 22% |
| Urban/Suburban, 2010 | 75,062 | 26% |
| Percent Change in Total Residential | | 11% |

Bernalillo County crosses four watersheds: the Rio Grande-Santa Fe Watershed; the Rio Grande-Albuquerque Watershed; the Rio Puerco Watershed; and the Western Estancia Watershed. For each of the watersheds, erosion, runoff, and minimal groundwater recharge are areas of concern. Because many of the soils in the area do not absorb water well, erosion is a particular concern after a forest fire event. Water quality in these areas can be impaired by aluminum, lead, E. coli, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), and more.

Bernalillo County's drinking water sources are surface water from the Colorado River and groundwater from an underground aquifer. The county also implements conservation efforts with seasonal water restrictions beginning in April of every year that include restrictions on outside sprinklers and other water-saving efforts.

Wildlife and Ecosystems

Bernalillo County has many diverse ecosystems, including the Rio Grande and its tributaries. This region is known for birding and other wildlife watching, hiking, fishing, and more. Common local wildlife includes coyotes, foxes, bobcats, porcupines, deer, geese, cranes, and bats. Nineteen endangered or threatened species call Bernalillo County home, including the meadow jumping mouse (*Zapus hudsonius luteus*), brown pelican (*Pelecanus occidentalis*), common black hawk (*Buteogallus anthracinus*), bald eagle (*Haliaeetus*

leucocephalus), aplomado falcon (*Falco femoralis*), peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*), arctic peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus tundrius*), least tern (*Sternula antillarum*), neotropical cormorant (*Phalacrocorax brasilianus*), yellow-billed cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus occidentalis*), Mexican spotted owl (*Strix occidentalis lucida*), southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*), bell's vireo (*Vireo bellii*), and gray vireo (*Vireo vicinior*).

The Rio Grande and the adjacent wetlands in Bernalillo County are home to 27 fish species, 16 nonnative species and 11 native species. The most abundant native species are fathead minnows (*Pimephales promelas*) and red shiners (*Cyprinella lutrensis*). The area also houses the endangered Rio Grande silvery minnow (*Hybognathus amarus*).

There is also a great deal of plant diversity in Bernalillo County, including many plants used in traditional medicine. Common names of some of the native plants found in the area include antelope horn milkweed, brook mint, coyote gourd, cowpen daisy, horehound, horse nettle, juniper, mountain parsley, piñon, purslane, prickly pear cactus, and yucca.

Agricultural Lands

“The viability of farms in New Mexico hinges on the citizens of the county and all New Mexico to recognize our farm land as one of their food sources. I have been growing and selling vegetables, beef, eggs, and other farm products since I was child, and have sold to restaurants and at farmers’ markets in Albuquerque and Socorro. The sustainability of our local farms depends on a local food market, we can ‘grow the growers,’ but if the community doesn’t buy locally produced food, farms will not thrive. I feel it is important to plant the seed, recognizing our local farms as a potential food source for the community.”

—CECILIA ROSACKER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, RIO GRANDE AGRICULTURAL LAND TRUST

Nearly 80 percent of the farms in Bernalillo County are fewer than 50 acres. Top crop items (in acres) include forage land for hay; vegetables (including renowned New Mexico chiles); grapes; sorghum; and apples. Livestock makes up 58 percent of the annual value of the county’s agricultural products, totaling \$18,131,000. Top livestock are alpaca, horses, goats, and sheep and lambs.

DON J. USNER



Paul and Juan Tashjian check out some field plants at Price’s Dairy near Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Open Space Planning, Parks, and Recreation

“The abundance of beautiful spaces and recreational opportunities is one of our greatest assets. We need to make sure that these amazing places are accessible by a variety of modes so that they can be enjoyed by all.”

—KENDRA MONTANARI, MID-REGION COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

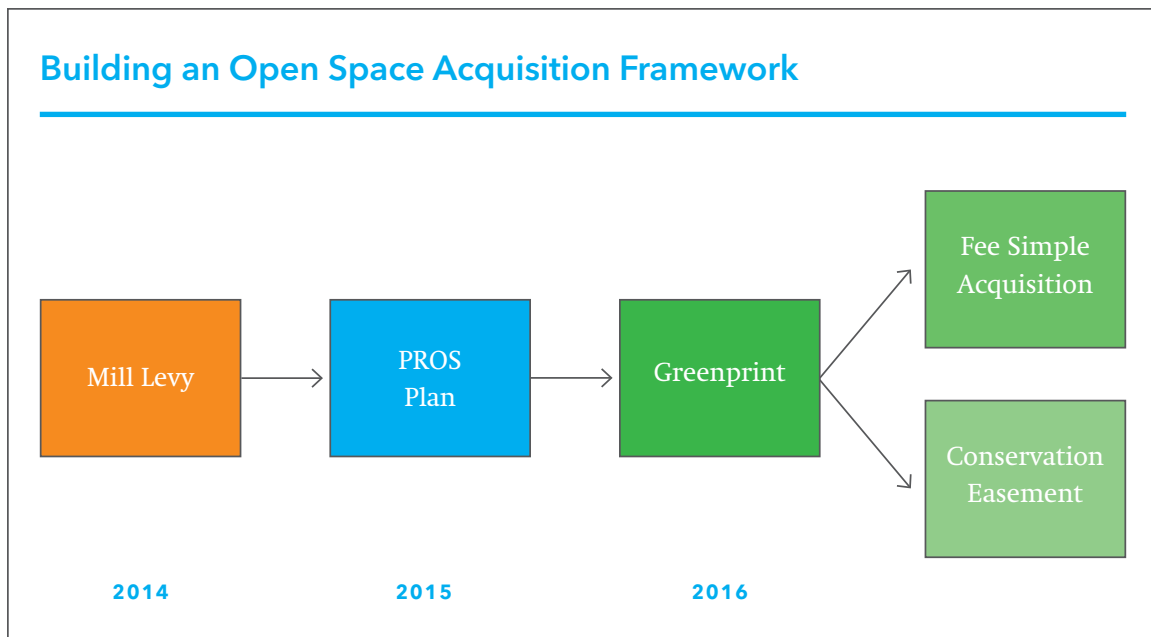
OPEN SPACE PLANNING

In 2014, voters in Bernalillo County passed a mill levy that will raise an estimated \$42 million in revenue for open space over the next 15 years. Approximately half of the money is to be used to purchase land within Bernalillo County that can be used for open space, agriculture, and/or preservation purposes, while the other half will be used for maintenance and operations of these lands. This mill levy passed with 73 percent approval, showing a strong desire for open space protection.

Bernalillo County's 2015 Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Plan is an updated version of the 2003 Parks Open Space and Trails (POST) Plan. Nearly three-quarters of the projects

in the POST Plan were undertaken and are now serving county residents, including the Rio Grande Pool renovation; development of Bachechi, Pajarito, Durand, and Ojito Open Spaces; Gutierrez-Hubbell House renovations and open space development; Vista Grande Community Center and Paradise Hills Community Center improvements; and playground, park, and Little League park upgrades throughout the county.

The 2015 PROS Plan serves as an updated and more comprehensive plan that includes priorities for community health, cultural heritage, economic development, and quality of life. The PROS Plan was developed with community input between 2013 and 2015 – including over 40 public meetings. The PROS Plan builds



➔ **FIGURE 2** Open space acquisition framework image

upon other initiatives and partnerships within the county and identifies and prioritizes capital projects for the next 15 years. The open space mill levy will help provide an additional funding source for Bernalillo's open space system, including acquisition, development, maintenance, and programming.

"Many of the properties that were purchased for open space likely would have been developed, yet today they are the County's environmental, historical and cultural treasures. These places include historic sites such as the Gutierrez-Hubbell House, and Ojito de San Antonio that features an ancient acequias. They also include prime wildlife spots like Carlito Springs with its perennial streams and Bachechi Open Space with a mosaic of habitat. These are not only pretty places, but they are vital for the health of our watershed, preservation of our agricultural traditions, and the protection of wildlife."

—COLLEEN LANGAN-MCROBERTS, BERNCO OPEN SPACE COORDINATOR

RECREATION

Bernalillo County has 34,567 total acres of parks and open space, and maintains 1,065 acres of parkland and 982 acres of open space. The county has an enormous variety of

recreational opportunities from hiking and biking to hot-air balloon rides. The landscapes within Bernalillo County provide unique experiences that range from Petroglyph National Monument and national forests to vineyards and world-class botanic gardens. The Bernalillo County Parks and Recreation Department owns and operates five community centers that provide fitness opportunities for residents, in addition to 19 parks in the South Valley, six parks in the North Valley and Paradise Hills, eight parks in Far Northeast Heights, and three parks in East Mountains. The parks range from soccer fields and tennis courts to equestrian parks and dog parks. Bernalillo County Parks and Recreation Department also maintains 16 open space areas: Sanchez Farm, Sedillo Ridge, Pajarito South, Ojito de San Antonio, Sandia Knolls, Clinton P. Anderson, Durand, Valle del Bosque, Don Felipe Lot, Chavez Property, Hubbell North, Pajarito, Hubbell, Carlito Springs, Bachechi, and Sabino Canyon.

Each year, The Trust for Public Land creates a ParkScore index as a comprehensive rating system to measure how well the 100 largest U.S. cities are meeting the need for parks. In ParkScore 2016, Albuquerque ranked 20th. Parklands make up 23.6 percent of the city area, or 27,438 acres. The largest and most visited municipal park in Albuquerque is Balloon Fiesta Park.

Bernalillo County Rx Trails

The Prescription Trails Program (Rx Trails) developed a prescription tool and walking guide to increase walking and wheelchair rolling on suggested routes, targeting and promoting healthy lifestyles for families.

Sedentary lifestyles contribute significantly to chronic disease and poor health outcomes. Rx Trails connects health care providers and their patients to walkable sites in the South Valley. The outcome is a healthier, happier society.

Prescription Trails Program major partners include: NM Health Care Takes on Diabetes, National Park Service, Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Mexico, City of Albuquerque, New Mexico State Parks, Albuquerque Alliance for Active Living, and Bernalillo County Open Space.

Prescription Rx Walking Trails are at the following Bernalillo County Open Space properties: Durand, Gutierrez-Hubbell House, Pajarito, Rio Bravo, Sanchez Farm, [and] Valle del Bosque. Each of these Rx properties has been evaluated and included based upon trail distance, difficulty, trail surface, and attractions.

VALLE DE ORO NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge promotes environmental education and recreation in an urban setting. The Southwest's first wildlife refuge, Valle de Oro comprises 570 acres. The refuge fulfilled the goals of President Obama's America's Great Outdoors Initiative, and was made possible by tremendous community partners and organizations who transformed a dairy farm into an urban oasis for education and conservation. To learn more about the refuge, please see online Appendix 5.



KIM KURIAN HINER

Children walking in Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge

PETROGLYPH NATIONAL MONUMENT

Petroglyph National Monument stretches 17 miles along the city of Albuquerque and protects one of the largest petroglyph sites in North America, featuring designs and symbols carved onto volcanic rocks by Native

Americans and Spanish settlers 400 to 700 years ago. These images are a valuable record of cultural expression and hold profound spiritual significance for both Native Americans and the descendants of the early Spanish settlers.

LUKE FIELDS



Petroglyph of what may be a Red Tailed Hawk

3. Community engagement and project timeline

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT FOR THIS GREENPRINT INCLUDED interviews, four stakeholder meetings, four technical advisory team meetings, a telephone poll, and an online survey to learn more about conservation priorities in Bernalillo County.

- **APRIL 2016** First kickoff stakeholder meeting; interviews begin
- **MAY 2016** Telephone poll
- **JULY 2016** Online survey conducted July through October; first technical team meeting
- **AUGUST 2016** Second stakeholder meeting; second technical team meeting
- **FALL/WINTER 2016** Development of preliminary Greenprint models, goal maps, and overall draft maps
- **NOVEMBER 2016** Third technical team meeting
- **DECEMBER 2016** Third stakeholder meeting
- **FEBRUARY 2017** Fourth and final technical team meeting
- **MARCH 2017** Fourth stakeholder meeting
- **JUNE 2017** Community open house
- **SUMMER 2017** Final report

Interviews

Interviews were conducted in the late spring and early summer of 2016 both in person and by telephone. The interviews were intended to (1) Identify important conservation challenges and opportunities in the study area; (2) Gather information about existing conditions, priorities, and related initiatives; and (3) Gain

insight into strategies for successfully implementing the Greenprint. Staff from The Trust for Public Land conducted 11 interviews with local stakeholders and experts.

Interviewees mentioned they love Bernalillo County for the green space, the bosque and access to nature, small-scale agriculture, outdoor activities, the culture and traditions of New Mexico, the diversity, quality of life, and the people. Interviewees focused on traditional landscapes, outdoor resources, climate, and great diversity as things that contribute to their quality of life.

When asked about positive trends in the county, interviewees mentioned increased awareness about the need for open space and local agriculture, the integration and improvement of trails, and an influx of young people and new businesses. Negative trends identified included suburban sprawl, unplanned growth, impacts to wildlife corridors, and gentrification. Interviewees also expressed concern about crime, lack of respect for agricultural and pueblo history, and a lingering economic recession.

Interviewees identified a wide range of local places as having special meaning, including the bosque, the foothills, North Course, urban open space, Bachechi Open Space, the mountains and ski areas, hiking paths, agricultural lands, escarpments and petroglyphs, the Rio Grande, South Valley, Valle de Oro, the Sandias, Petroglyph National Monument, West Mesa, and East Mountain.

Steering Committee Meetings

The Trust for Public Land and the Bernalillo County Parks and Recreation Department convened a kickoff meeting and three additional steering committee meetings. Fifty-eight people representing over 30 local groups attended at least one of the meetings. At these meetings, participants discussed guiding principles and their vision for the Greenprint; generated ideas for criteria for the Greenprint goals; reviewed draft Greenprint maps; voted on the overall Greenprint map and its highlighted priority areas; and reviewed and revised an implementation plan. Summaries of each of the stakeholder meetings are included in online Appendix 3.

Bernalillo County Telephone Poll

The Trust for Public Land and Bernalillo County Parks and Recreation Department worked with Research and Polling, Inc. (RPI) to design a telephone survey about open space priorities that was conducted in May of 2016. RPI used quotas for age, gender, and ethnicity to ensure that the local county demographics were reflected. A total of 410 participants completed the telephone survey: 85 percent lived in the city of Albuquerque and 66 percent were reached on their cell phone. The top concerns for participants were protecting water and protecting the bosque and other lands along the Rio Grande. Participants particularly wanted to protect land along the river in the North Valley and agricultural lands in the South Valley. Survey respondents wanted to direct open space investments to

land that benefits the greatest number of people; land that will do the most to help encourage healthy activities and promote community health; and land that is easily accessible to the public.

Telephone poll highlights:

- The vast majority of respondents said the following were very important: protecting the water quality of rivers and streams (89 percent); protecting the bosque and other lands along the Rio Grande (80 percent); and protecting the habitat for wildlife and birds (70 percent).
- Respondents' top two choices for where land should be purchased for conservation were areas along the river in the North Valley (34 percent) and agricultural lands in the South Valley (26 percent).
- Over half of the respondents said that the following are very important: purchasing land that will benefit the greatest number of people (60 percent); purchasing land that will do the most to help encourage healthy activities and promote community health (58 percent); and making sure the land is easily accessible to the public (58 percent).

An online community survey (with the same questions as the telephone survey) was conducted between July and October 2016. A total of 348 people participated in the online survey. Because the telephone survey was much more representative of community demographics, those data are the primary source of community input used in the

Greenprint process. Below are some key results and comparisons between the two surveys:

- Telephone survey participants were much more demographically representative of the community – online respondents were much more likely to be white/non-Hispanic, older, and higher-income.
- Top concerns in both surveys were water and protecting the bosque, but there was more concern about wildlife and bird habitat in the community survey. Water was by far the highest priority.
- The two surveys had the same top two priorities for places to protect land: areas along the river in the North Valley and agricultural lands in the South Valley.
- Online participants expressed more concern about purchasing smaller areas of more environmentally sensitive land than did telephone respondents (83 percent versus 52 percent).
- Telephone respondents were more concerned about protecting land that benefits the most people and land that is accessible to the public. Online respondents were more concerned about protecting land that is at most risk from future development. Both groups want to protect land that will do the most to help encourage healthy activities and promote community health.

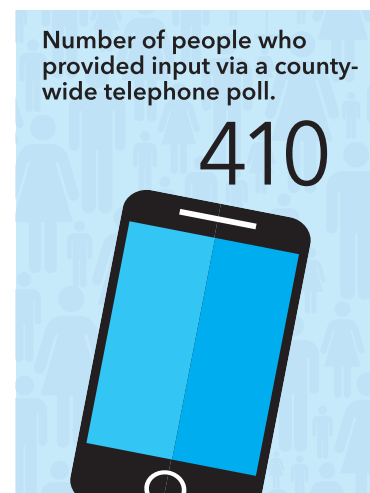
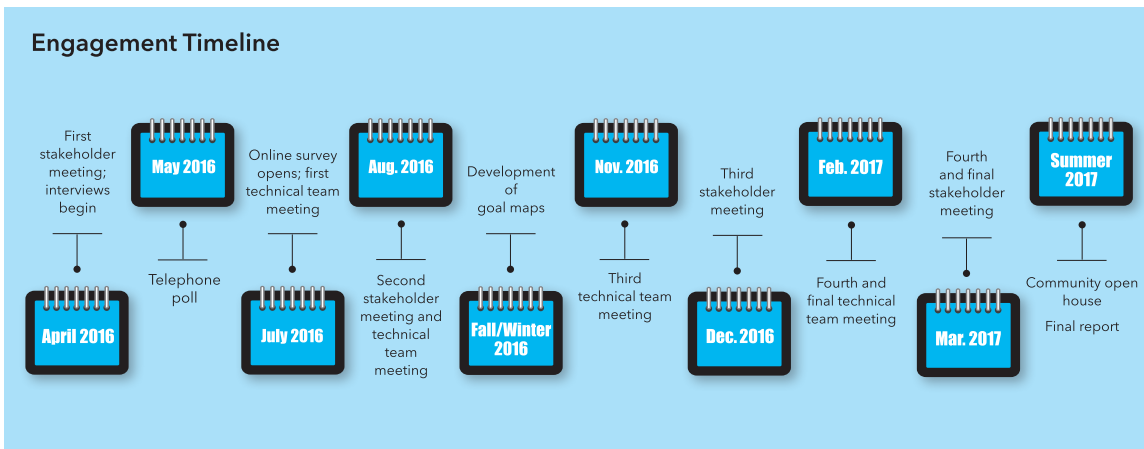
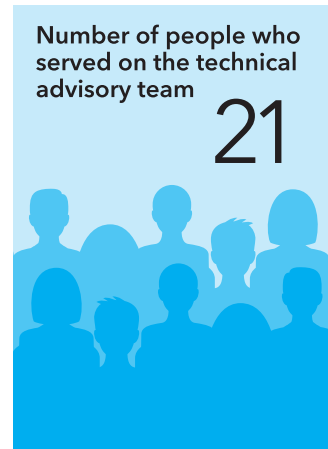
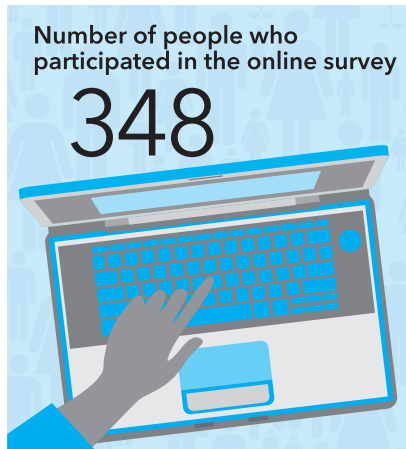


BERNICO OPEN SPACE

Bernalillo County open space

Bernalillo County Greenprint at a Glance

PATRICE GALLAGHER



4. Mapping conservation goals

THE GREENPRINT ANALYSIS TRANSLATES regional values into objective metrics. It reflects Bernalillo County’s unique resources and offers a blend of science and community perspectives. Creating the Greenprint maps involved translating the goals into mappable criteria and looking for “stacked priorities” – areas where multiple goals or criteria overlap. The conservation prioritization that is part of the Greenprint process is also a key implementation step from the 2015 PROS Plan.

Because this Greenprint relies heavily on voluntary land acquisition as an implementation tool, the final map focuses on conservation of relatively intact land rather than on restoration of impaired land. Geographic information systems (GIS) analysis used in the Greenprint maps utilized the best

available spatial data to represent each conservation goal. The five Greenprint goals are to (1) Protect water quality in rivers and streams; (2) Preserve local agriculture and food production; (3) Protect wildlife habitat; (4) Protect important cultural and historical lands and sites; and (5) Provide public access to healthy outdoor recreation (see Table 2).

The GIS team from The Trust for Public Land worked with community meeting participants and a technical advisory team to create maps for each of these goals and an overall map combining the goals. Through analyzing and modeling spatial data, these regional priorities were translated into objective metrics and maps highlighting the areas where conservation would best meet community goals.

TABLE 2. CONSERVATION OPPORTUNITY LANDS BY CONSERVATION GOAL

| Conservation Goal | Very High-Priority Areas for Protection (acres) |
|---|---|
| Protect Water Quality in Rivers and Streams | 28,905.29 |
| Preserve Local Agriculture and Food Production | 5,150.21 |
| Protect Wildlife Habitat | 4,329.32 |
| Protect Important Cultural and Historical Lands and Sites | 32,757.12 |
| Provide Public Access to Healthy Outdoor Recreation | 3,959.20 |

Overviews of each goal and the maps created through the Greenprint process, as well as a map combining all five goals, follow. The full criteria matrix used in developing the Greenprint maps is shown in online Appendix 1.

Protect Water Quality in Rivers and Streams

Protecting water and water quality is the top priority in Bernalillo County. As local development increases, water quality threats increase as well. Nearly three-quarters of respondents in the telephone survey rated protecting the water quality of rivers and streams as their top conservation priority, and nearly half of the respondents said the single highest priority for county officials should be protecting the water quality of rivers and streams.

Additional water quality issues in the study area are discussed in Section 2. Criteria incorporated into the [Protect water quality in rivers and streams goal map \(shown in figure 3\)](#) include (1) Protect natural lands along rivers, streams and arroyos, drains, and acequias; (2) Protect lands in aquifer recharge zones; and (3) Protect permeable soils. The highest-priority areas for water quality are along ditches and surface channels and have highly permeable soils.

The greatest weight was given to

- Protect natural lands along rivers, streams and arroyos, drains, and acequias (40 percent)
- Protect lands in aquifer recharge zones (40 percent)

TABLE 3. PROTECT WATER QUALITY IN RIVERS & STREAMS PRIORITIES

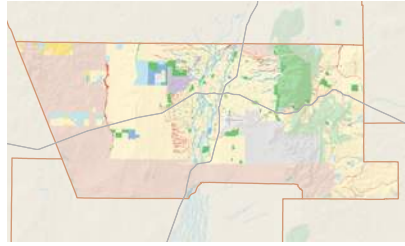
| Priority | Acres |
|-----------|------------|
| Very high | 28,905.29 |
| High | 8,040.43 |
| Moderate | 225,968.00 |
| Total | 262,913.72 |



Child playing in the water

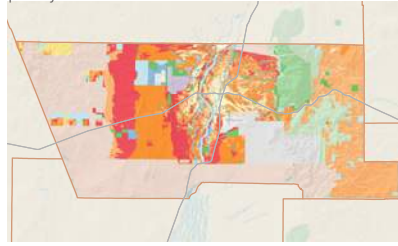
Protect Natural Lands Along Rivers, Streams and Arroyos, Drains and Acequias

Used USGS NLCD to find natural lands along rivers and streams, as well as AMAFCA linear drainage, MRGCD facilities, EMADrainages, and Carnuel Conveyances.



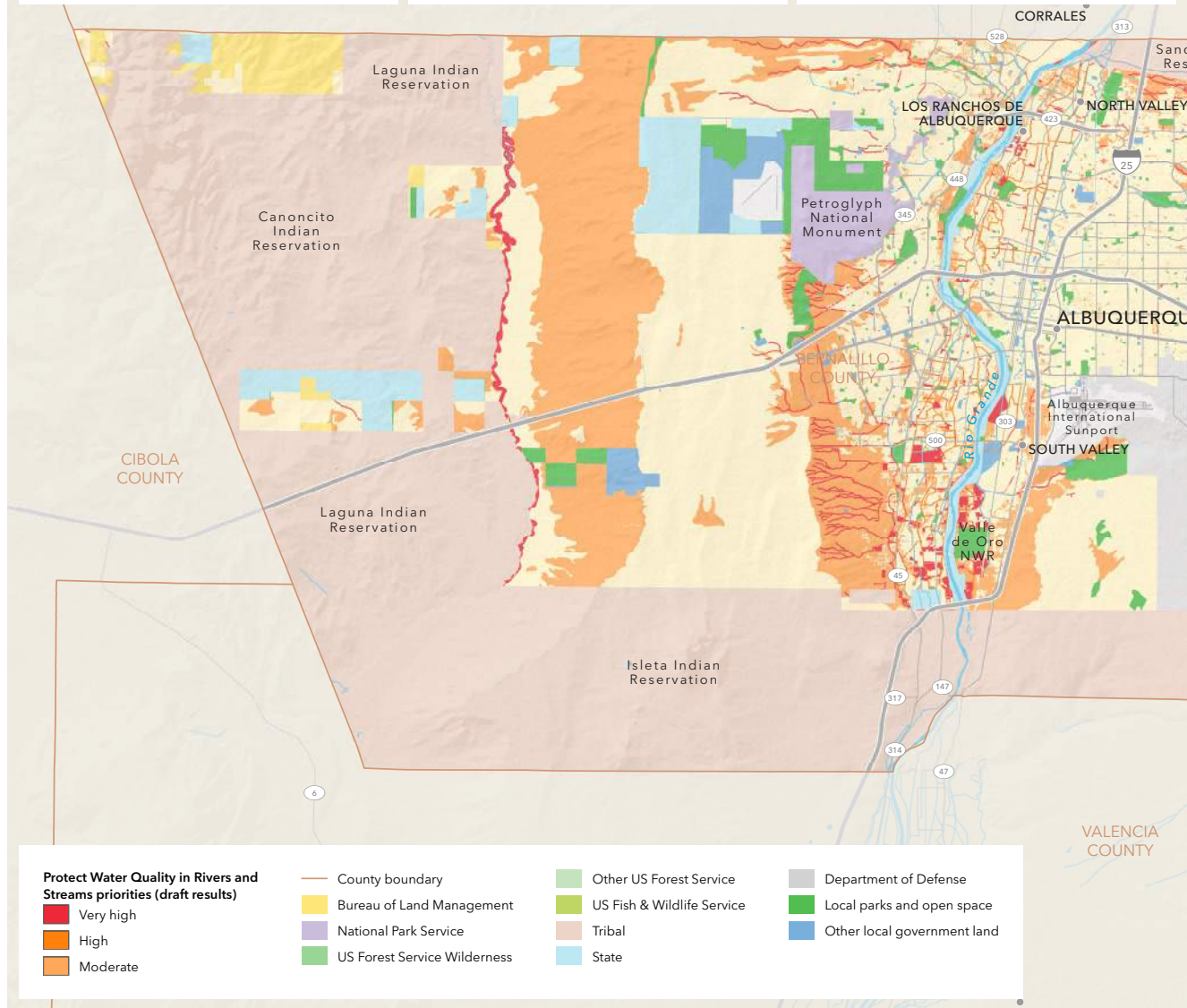
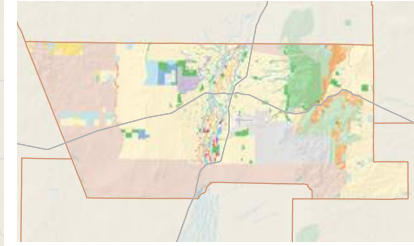
Protect Permeable Soils on Non-impervious Surfaces

Used NRCS Soils data to identify soils that absorb water deeper the ground. Soils that hold more water and are located on non-impervious surface are given a higher priority.



Protect Lands in Aquifer Recharge Zones

Aquifer Recharge areas were digitized based on conversations with aquifer recharge experts. Some areas highlighted as higher priorities include perennial waters, acequias/ditches, and intermittent waters in the mountains.



Protect water quality in rivers and streams

BERNALILLO COUNTY GREENPRINT: A COMMUNITY-DRIVEN CONSERVATION PLAN

This map displays the Protect Water Quality in Rivers and Streams Priorities identified in the Bernalillo County Greenprint. These areas represent the best opportunities for open space within the county for the criteria results shown in the insets above. The Protect Water Quality in Rivers and Streams Priorities shown in the main frame were created by combining the criteria results using a weighted overlay analysis, with weights derived by the project Technical Advisory Team to reflect which criteria result provided the greatest benefit to the resource goal. The weights for each criteria are as follows:

- Protect natural lands along water features (40%)
- Protect Lands in aquifer recharge zones (40%)
- Protect permeable soils on non-impervious surfaces (20%)

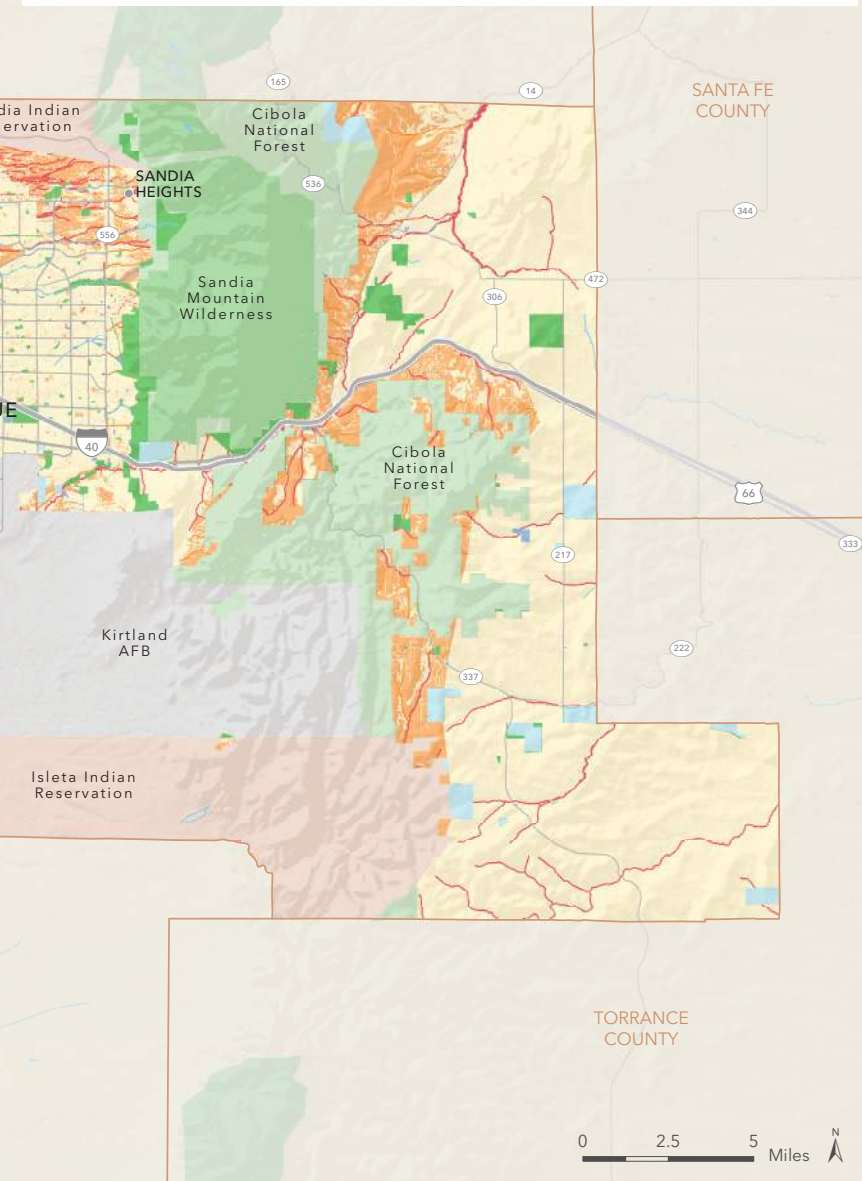


FIGURE 3 Special thanks to the following data providers: Bernalillo County. Copyright © The Trust for Public Land. The Trust for Public Land and The Trust for Public Land logo are federally registered marks of The Trust for Public Land. Information on this map is provided for purposes of discussion and visualization only.

Preserve Local Agriculture and Food Production

Ranchlands and local farms are an integral part of Bernalillo County, and these lands sustain both the people and the culture of this region – literally and figuratively. More and more agricultural land is being developed and lost. See Section 2 for more information.

Criteria incorporated into the [Preserve local agriculture and food production goal map \(shown in figure 4\)](#) include (1) Preserve irrigable agricultural land; (2) Create new opportunities for agriculture; (3) Preserve vacant lots in urban food deserts for community gardens; and (4) Protect grasslands or ranchland. The highest-priority lands for this goal are generally located along the Rio Grande in the southern part of the county.

The greatest weight was given to

- Preserve irrigable agricultural land (40 percent)
- Create new opportunities for agriculture (30 percent)

TABLE 4. PRESERVE LOCAL AGRICULTURE AND FOOD PRODUCTION

| Priority | Acres |
|-----------|-----------|
| Very high | 5,150.21 |
| High | 146.09 |
| Moderate | 4,754.28 |
| Total | 10,050.58 |



Hubbell Farmers

BERNALILLO COUNTY GREENPRINT

Protect Wildlife Habitat

Many species are found within Bernalillo County, dozens of which are listed as threatened or endangered. The study area also has important wildlife corridors for migration. Bernalillo County has many diverse ecosystems, including the Rio Grande and its tributaries. Criteria incorporated into the [Protect wildlife habitat goal map \(shown in figure 5\)](#) include (1) Priority wildlife and bird habitat; (2) Protect wildlife movement corridors; (3) Preserve urban tree canopy; (4) Preserve wetlands; and (5) Protect areas with known location of threatened or endangered species. The highest-priority lands for this goal are mostly found in and around the Rio Grande River Valley and the Sandia and Manzano Mountains.

The greatest weight was given to

- Priority wildlife and bird habitat (40 percent)
- Protect wildlife movement corridors (30 percent)

TABLE 5. PROTECT WILDLIFE HABITAT PRIORITIES

| Priority | Acres |
|-----------|-----------|
| Very high | 4,329.32 |
| High | 39,047.28 |
| Moderate | 39,527.65 |
| Total | 82,904.25 |



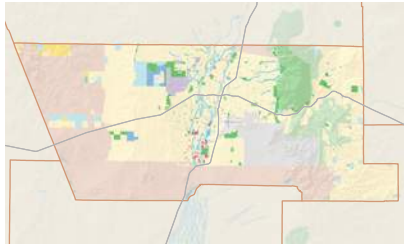
Owl



Egret

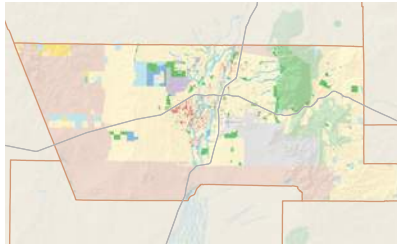
Preserve Irrigable Agricultural Land

Shows land with agricultural land use that are within 0.25 mi from a ditch or acequia.



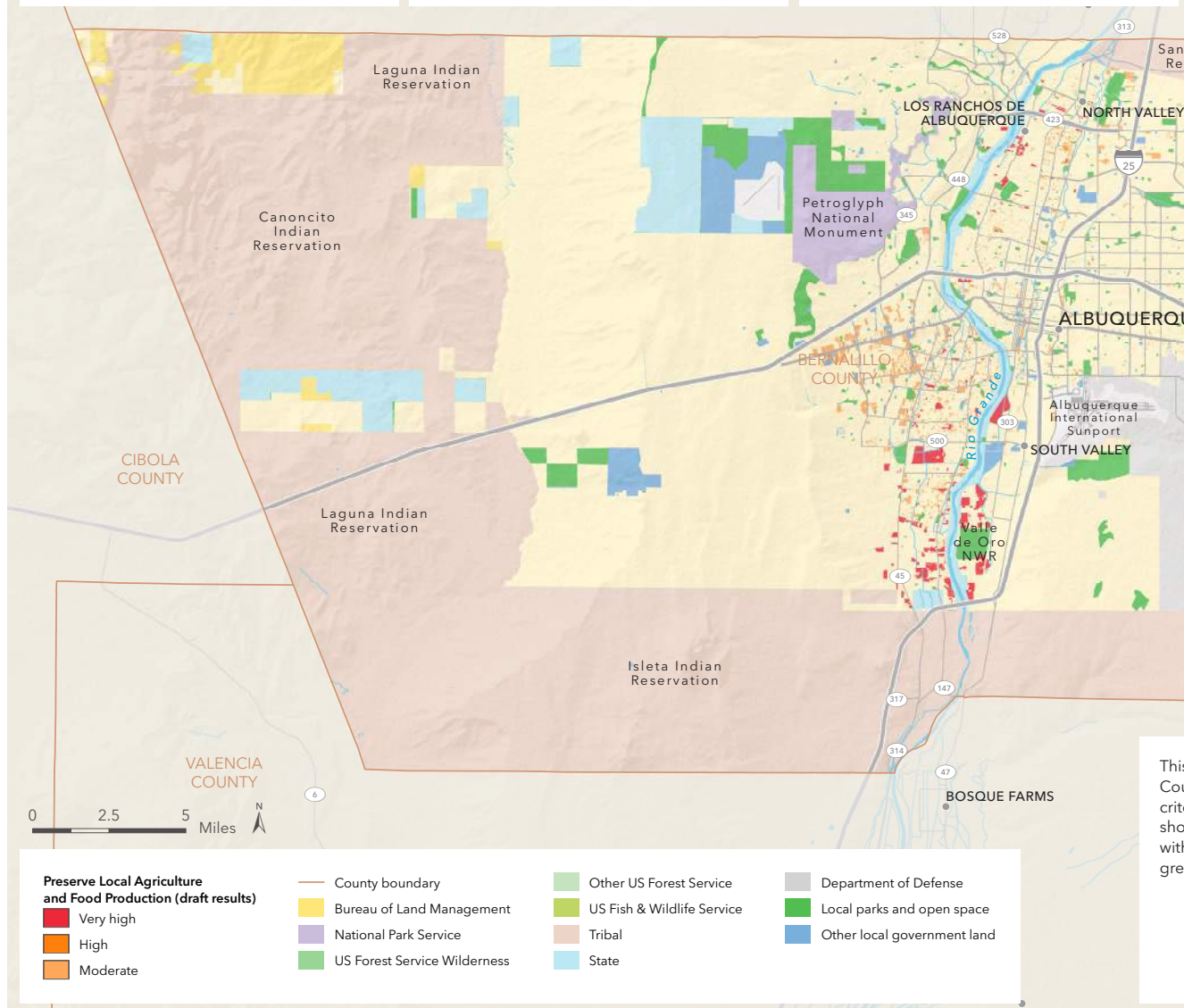
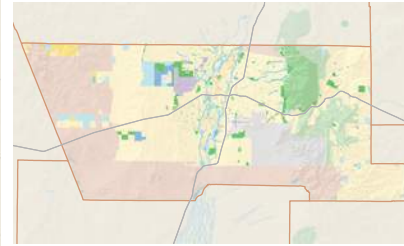
Preserve Vacant Lots in Food Deserts for Community Gardens

Selected urban tracts identified as low income/low access to food using USDA Food Access Database; vacant lots within those areas were selected.



New Opportunities for Agriculture

Used USDA soils data to identify the best available soils for farming. Parcels with good soils along irrigation features are shown as high priority. Also, areas that were historically agriculture are considered for future conversion.

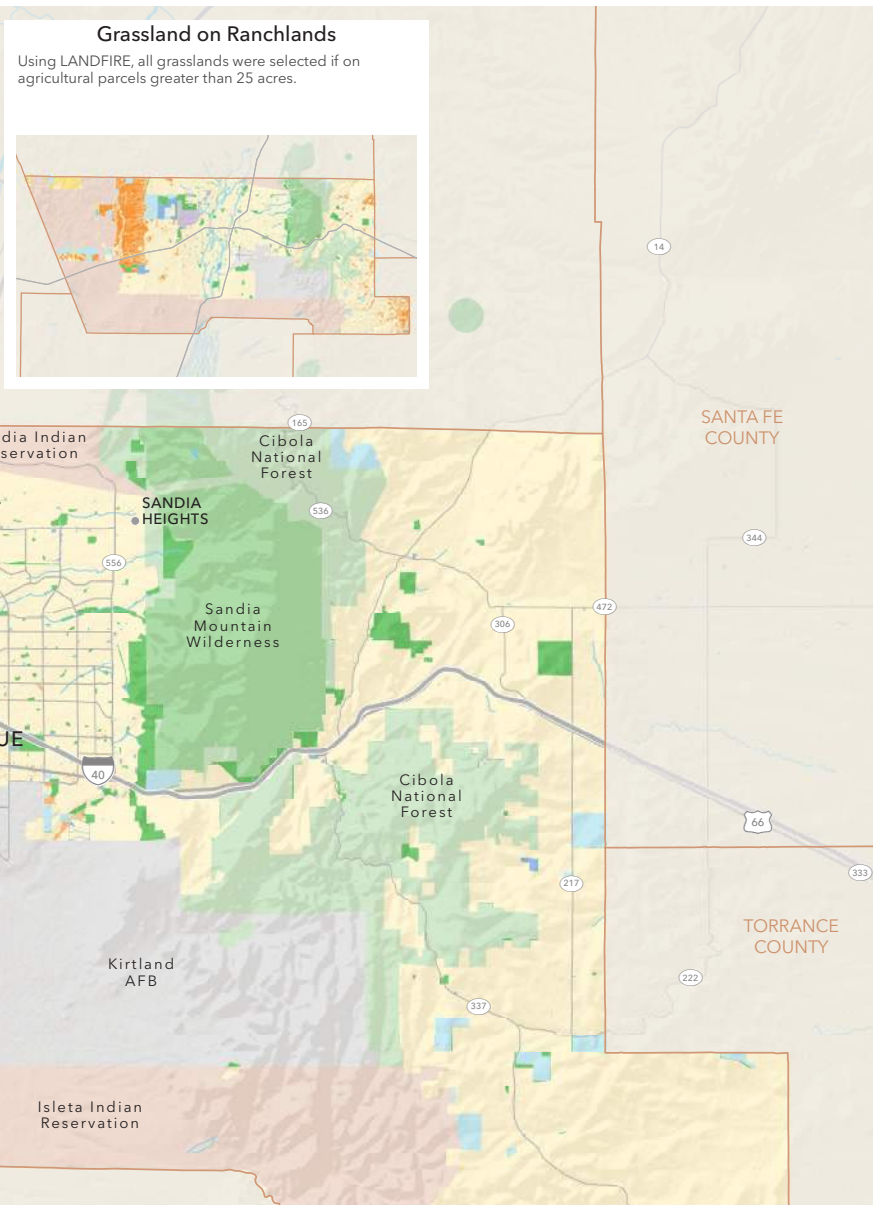
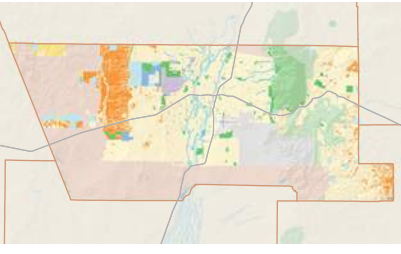


Preserve local agriculture and food production

BERNALILLO COUNTY GREENPRINT: A COMMUNITY-DRIVEN CONSERVATION PLAN

Grassland on Ranchlands

Using LANDFIRE, all grasslands were selected if on agricultural parcels greater than 25 acres.



This map displays the Preserve Local Agriculture and Food Production Priorities identified in the Bernalillo County Greenprint. These areas represent the best opportunities for open space within the county for the criteria results shown in the insets above. The Preserve Local Agriculture and Food Production Priorities shown in the main frame were created by combining the criteria results using a weighted overlay analysis, with weights derived by the project Technical Advisory Team to reflect which criteria result provided the greatest benefit to the resource goal. The weights for each criteria are as follows:

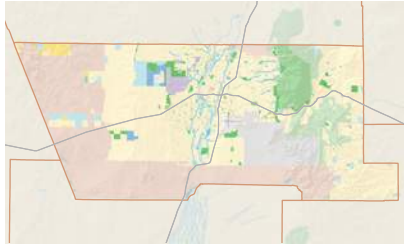
- Preserve irrigable cropland (40%)
- Create new opportunities for agriculture (30%)
- Preserve vacant lots in urban food deserts for community gardens (25%)
- Protect grassland or ranchlands (5%)



FIGURE 4 Special thanks to the following data providers: Bernalillo County. Copyright © The Trust for Public Land. The Trust for Public Land and The Trust for Public Land logo are federally registered marks of The Trust for Public Land. Information on this map is provided for purposes of discussion and visualization only.

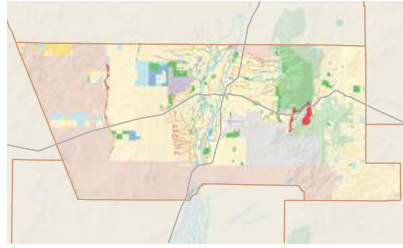
Urban Tree Canopy

Used USFS LANDFIRE data to identify forested landcover in developed and riparian areas in the US Census designated urban tracts.



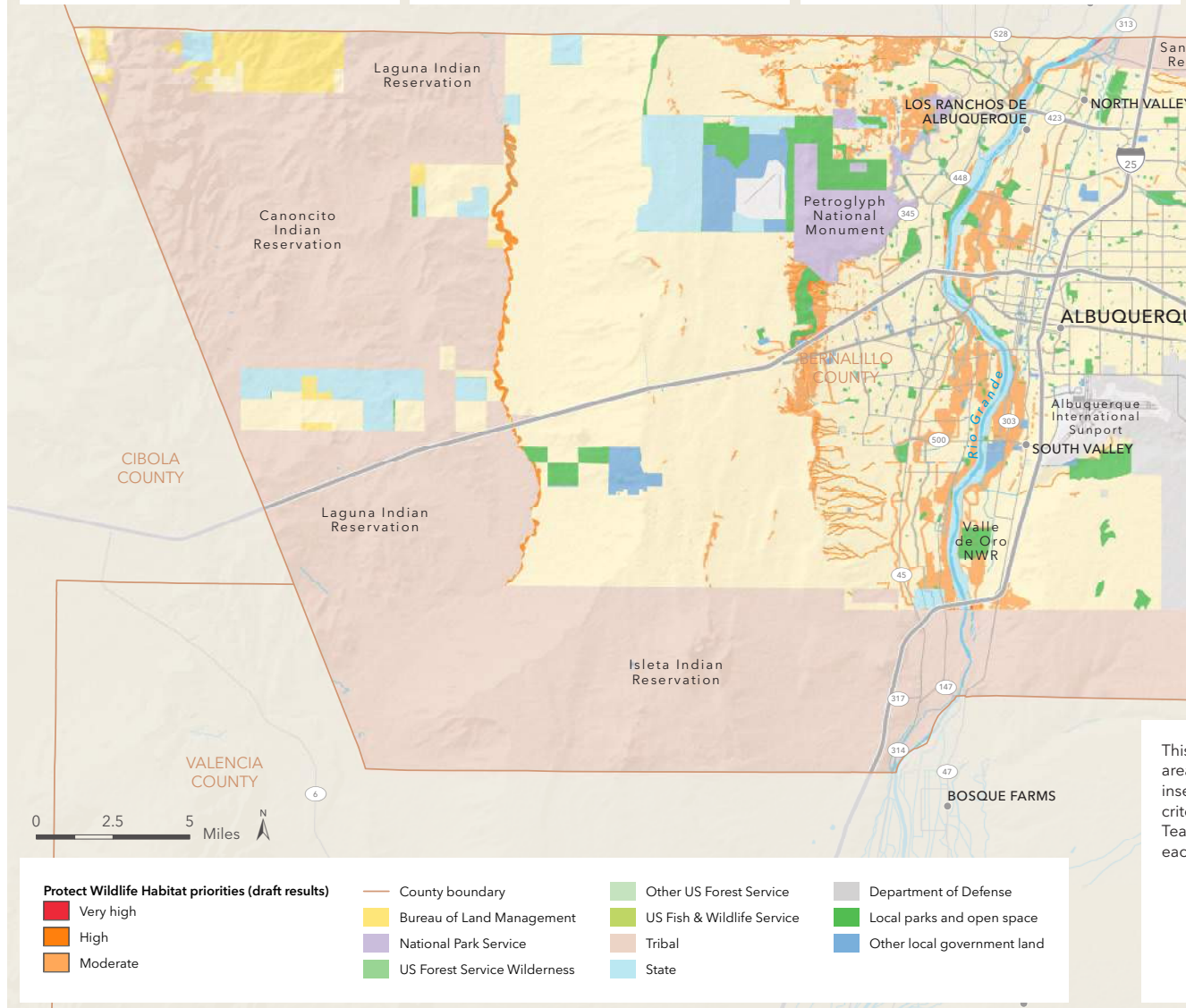
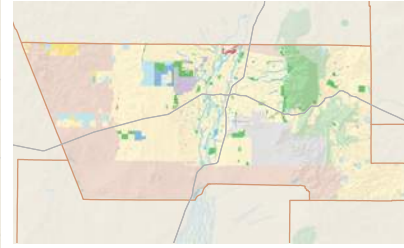
Protect Wildlife Movement Corridors

Used NM DGF Crucial Habitat Assessment Model to prioritize areas identified as important as a wildlife corridor. Ditches and drainage features were also included as an opportunity for wildlife corridors.



Preserve Wetlands

Used the National Wetlands Inventory to prioritize wetlands.

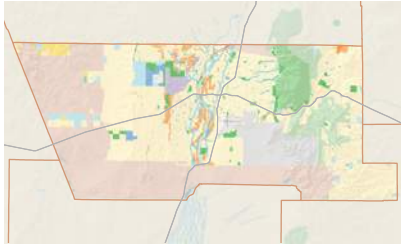


Protect wildlife habitat priorities

BERNALILLO COUNTY GREENPRINT: A COMMUNITY-DRIVEN CONSERVATION PLAN

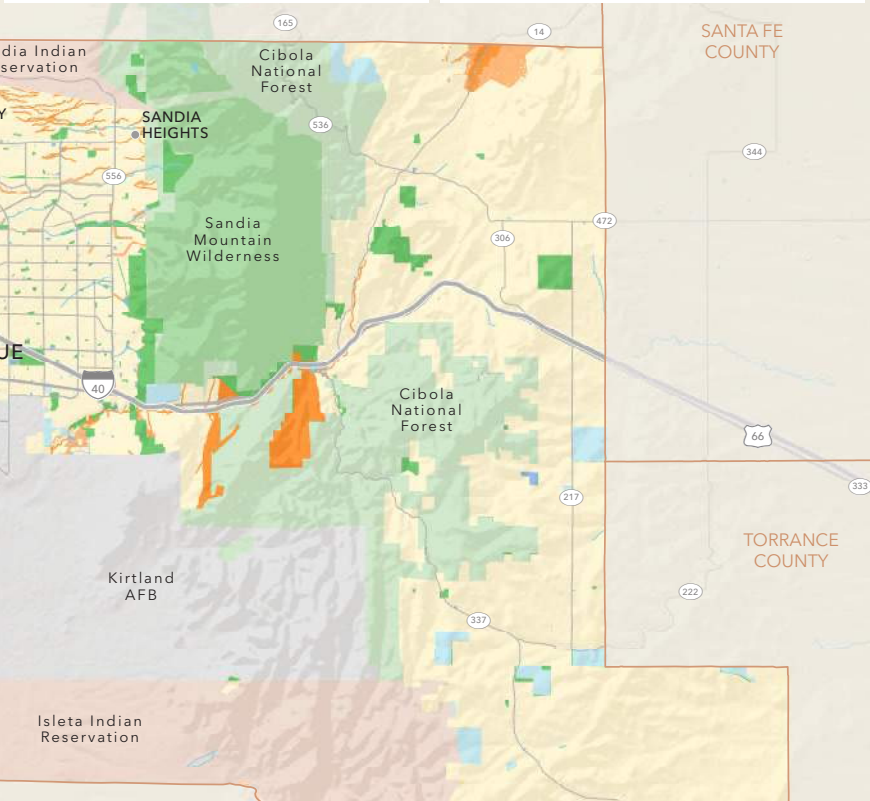
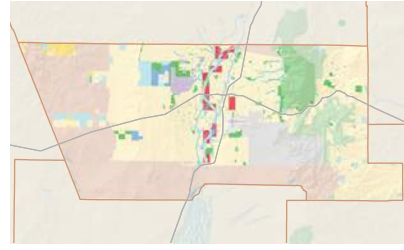
Priority Wildlife and Bird Habitat

Used NM DGF Crucial Habitat Assessment model to prioritize areas with predicted high quality wildlife habitat. Also included the USFS Riparian Ecological Response Units, USFWS critical habitat as high priority habitat.



Protect Areas with Known Locations Species of Greatest Conservation Need

Used New Mexico Heritage known locations of T&E species (fuzzed to 1 mile blocks) as high priority areas.



This map displays the Protect Wildlife Habitat Priorities identified in the Bernalillo County Greenprint. These areas represent the best opportunities for open space within the county for the criteria results shown in the maps above. The Protect Wildlife Habitat Priorities shown in the main frame were created by combining the criteria results using a weighted overlay analysis, with weights derived by the project Technical Advisory Team to reflect which criteria result provided the greatest benefit to the resource goal. The weights for each criteria are as follows:

- Priority Wildlife and Bird Habitat (40%)
- Protect Wildlife Movement Corridors (30%)
- Known Locations of Threatened/Endangered Species (10%)
- Urban Tree Canopy (10%)
- Preserve Wetlands (10%)



FIGURE 5 Special thanks to the following data providers: Bernalillo County. Copyright © The Trust for Public Land. The Trust for Public Land and The Trust for Public Land logo are federally registered marks of The Trust for Public Land. Information on this map is provided for purposes of discussion and visualization only.

Protect Important Cultural and Historical Lands and Sites

“We are all here because the Pueblo People were here. They lived in adobe villages by the river and looked up to places where Mother Earth met Father Sky, the Sandia Mountains and the Volcanoes. Views to these places will always be important to protect.”

—DIANE SOUDER, CHIEF OF INTERPRETATION AND OUTREACH, PETROGLYPH NATIONAL MONUMENT

Cultural and historical lands and sites are the lifeblood of New Mexico. Many interviewees mentioned that the cultural richness of Bernalillo County is a key component of quality of life. Criteria incorporated into the

Protect Important cultural and historical lands and sites goal map (shown in figure 6)

include (1) Preserve identified cultural landscapes; (2) Preserve acequias and adjacent land; (3) Preserve historical agricultural landscapes; (4) Preserve landscapes that support creative asset clusters; (5) Preserve lands along historic corridors; (6) Preserve lands with traditional views; and (7) Preserve tribal land grant lands. Many of the priority areas for this goal are along the Rio Grande and in more remote areas of the county.

The greatest weight was given to

- Preserve identified cultural landscapes (25 percent)
- Preserve acequias and adjacent land (25 percent)



Gutiérrez-Hubbell House

LUKE FIELDS


TABLE 6. PROTECT IMPORTANT CULTURAL & HISTORICAL SITES PRIORITIES

| Priority | Acres |
|-----------|-----------|
| Very high | 32,757.12 |
| High | 0 |
| Moderate | 2,825.33 |
| Total | 35,582.45 |

Provide Public Access to Healthy Outdoor Recreation

“Open space is a place that I appreciate inherently but also a personal and collaborative space for creativity and inspiration. It is a special public space. Places to have fun and be engaged.”

—JOE GARCIA, LA PLAZITA INSTITUTE

Increasing equitable access to healthy outdoor recreation is a major concern for many local residents. Criteria incorporated into the [Provide Public Access to Healthy Outdoor Recreation goal map \(shown in Figure 7\)](#) 

BERNICO OPEN SPACE



Children painting

include (1) Provide open space lands in or near low-income urban neighborhoods; (2) Provide open space to improve public health; (3) Preserve land that could connect gaps in existing trail network; and (4) Enhance opportunities for birding and wildlife watching. The highest-priority lands for this goal are spread throughout the more urban parts of the county where current access to parks and open space is most limited.

The greatest weight was given to

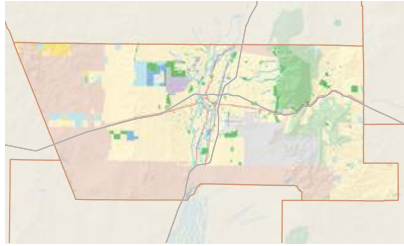
- Provide open space lands in or near low-income urban neighborhoods (35 percent)
- Provide open space to improve public health (35 percent)

TABLE 7. PROVIDE PUBLIC ACCESS TO HEALTHY OUTDOOR RECREATION PRIORITIES

| Priority | Acres |
|-----------|------------|
| Very high | 3,959.20 |
| High | 13,957.67 |
| Moderate | 87,809.70 |
| Total | 105,726.57 |

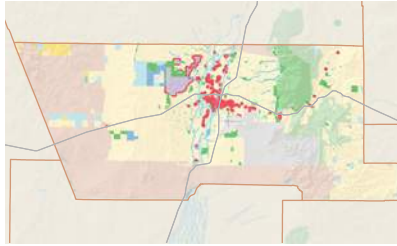
Preserve Lands Along Historic Corridors

Lands along Historic Route 66 and the NPS designated El Camino Real were given highest priority.



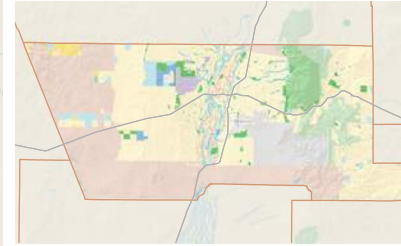
Preserve Identified Cultural Landscapes

Historic districts, registered historic places and historic sites were obtained from HPD, CABQ, and Bernalillo County. Each of these features were given highest priority.



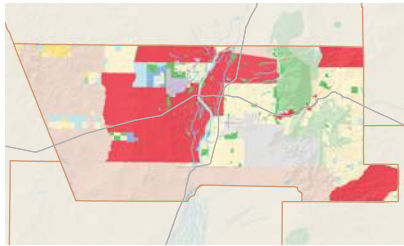
Preserve Acequias and Adjacent Land

All types of acequias, including historic acequias, were buffered based on size to include adjacent land. All features were given highest priority.



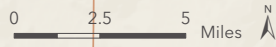
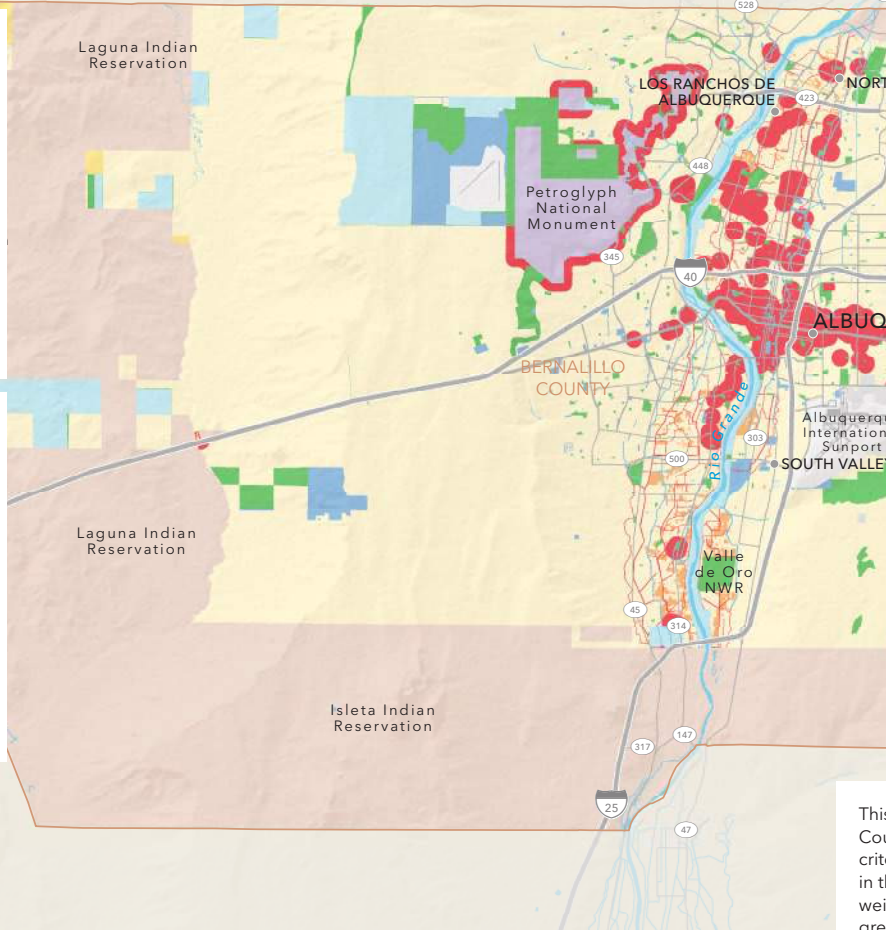
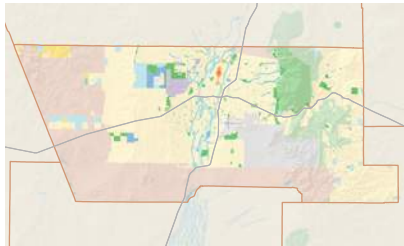
Preserve Tribal and Land Grant Lands

Historic land grants were given the highest priority value.



Preserve Landscapes that Support Creative Asset Clusters

From the Bernalillo County Cultural Mapping Report, this prioritizes areas with high concentration of creative businesses.



Protect Important Cultural and Historical Sites priorities (draft results)

- Very high
- High
- Moderate

- County boundary
- Bureau of Land Management
- National Park Service
- US Forest Service Wilderness

- Other US Forest Service
- US Fish & Wildlife Service
- Tribal
- State

- Department of Defense
- Local parks and open space
- Other local government land

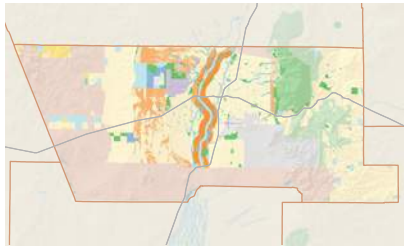
Protect important cultural and historical sites

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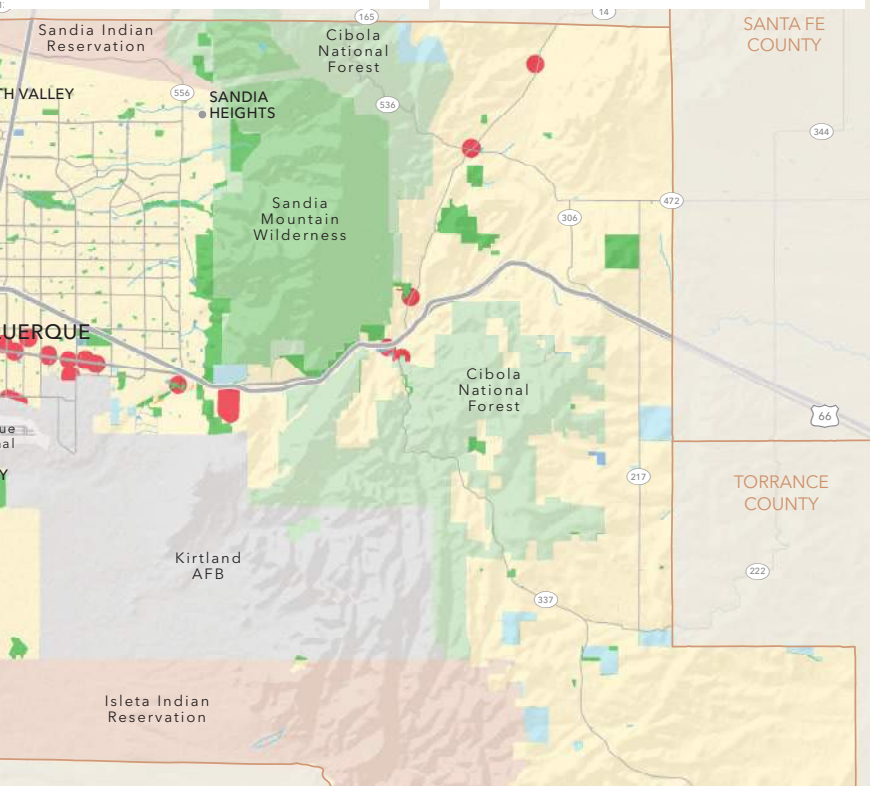
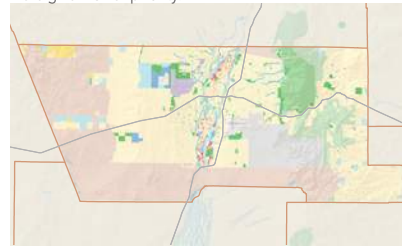
Preserve Lands with Traditional Views

Viewshed analysis was conducted to/from iconic and historic features. Values were assigned 1-5 based on how frequently a historic/iconic feature can be seen.



Preserve Historical Agricultural Landscapes

Land use from 1937 was used to determine areas with historical agriculture. If currently in ag, the highest priority was given. Currently vacant and single family land use were given lower priority.



This map displays the Protect Important Cultural and Historical Sites Priorities identified in the Bernalillo County Greenprint. These areas represent the best opportunities for open space within the county for the criteria results shown in the insets above. The Protect Important Cultural and Historical Sites Priorities shown in the main frame were created by combining the criteria results using a weighted overlay analysis, with weights derived by the project Technical Advisory Team to reflect which criteria result provided the greatest benefit to the resource goal. The weights for each criteria are as follows:

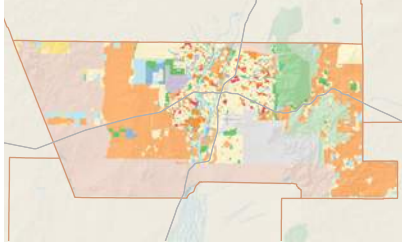
- Preserve identified cultural landscapes (25%)
- Preserve acequias and adjacent land (25%)
- Preserve historical agricultural landscapes (15%)
- Preserve lands along historic corridors (10%)
- Preserve lands with traditional views (10%)
- Preserve landscapes that support creative asset clusters (10%)



➤ **FIGURE 6** Special thanks to the following data providers: Bernalillo County. Copyright © The Trust for Public Land. The Trust for Public Land and The Trust for Public Land logo are federally registered marks of The Trust for Public Land. Information on this map is provided for purposes of discussion and visualization only.

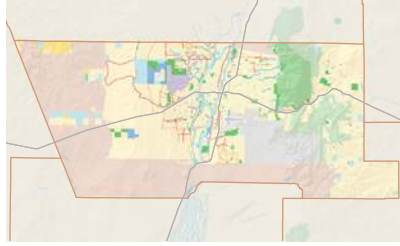
Preserve Open Space Lands in or Near Low Income Neighborhoods

Used TPL's Park Equity model to prioritize urban census block groups with a high percentage of low-income houses that do not have access to an existing park or open space within a 10-minute walk.



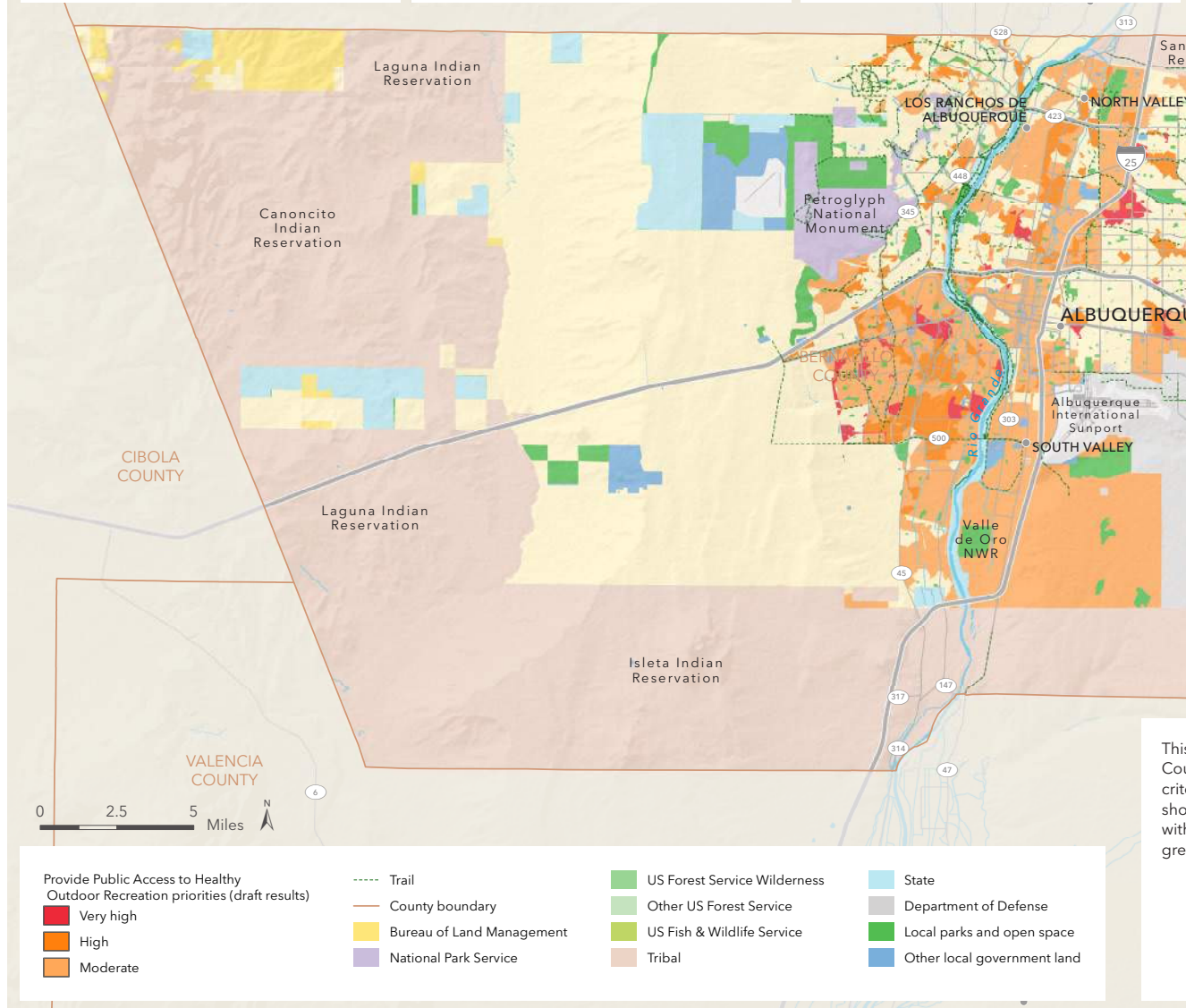
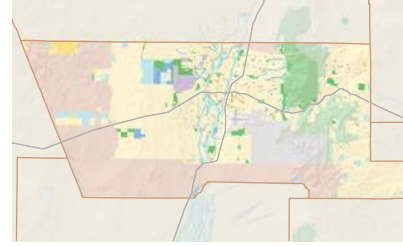
Preserve Land That Could Connect Gaps in Existing Trail Network

Considers proposed trails by CABQ and Bernalillo County. Areas given highest priority are critical links projects, 50-mile activity loop, 2040MTP.



Opportunities for Bird and Wildlife Watching

E-Bird observation data for 2010-2014 was aggregated to find statistically significant hotspots of birds. Wildlife watching has not been considered.

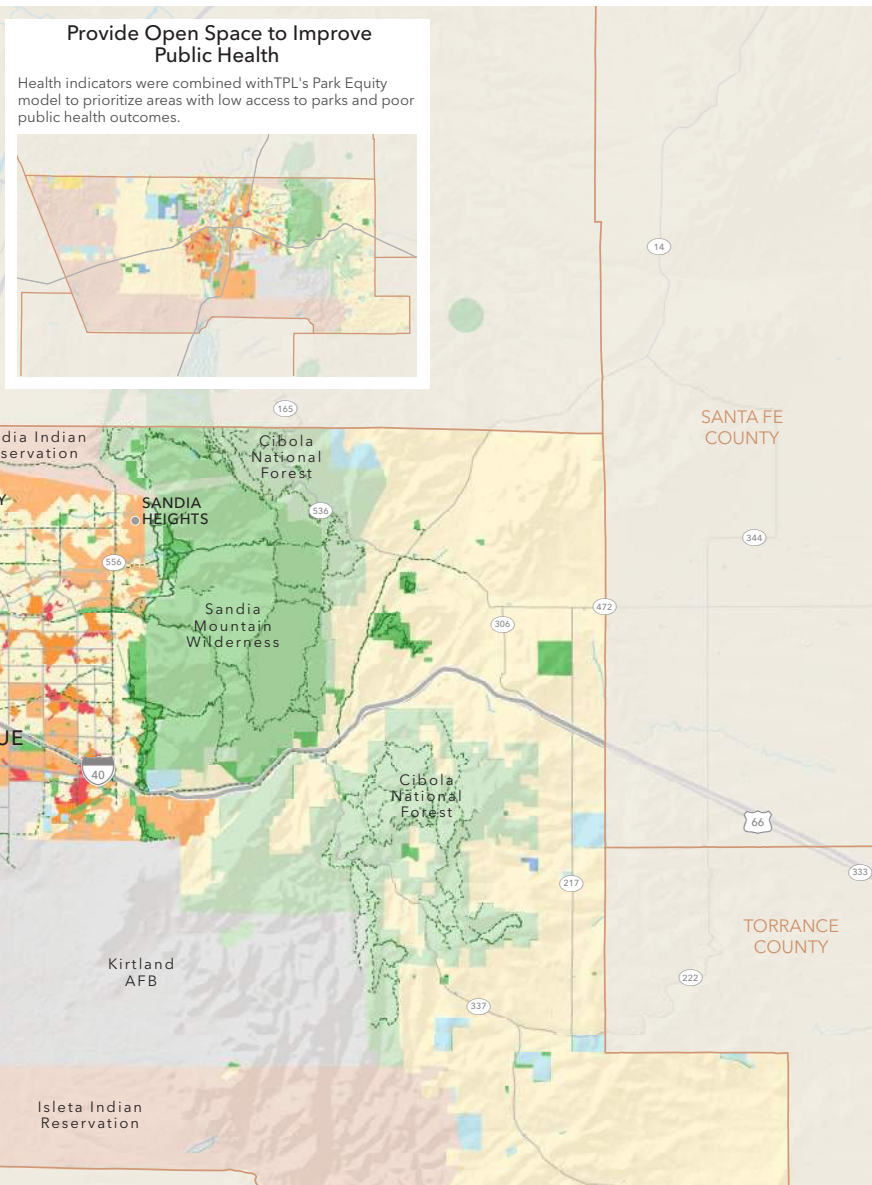
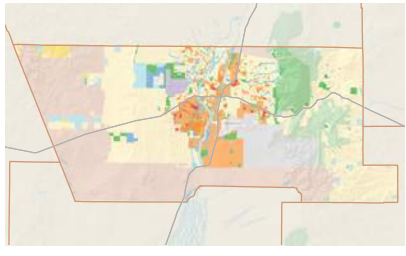


Provide public with healthy outdoor recreation

BERNALILLO COUNTY GREENPRINT: A COMMUNITY-DRIVEN CONSERVATION PLAN

Provide Open Space to Improve Public Health

Health indicators were combined with TPL's Park Equity model to prioritize areas with low access to parks and poor public health outcomes.

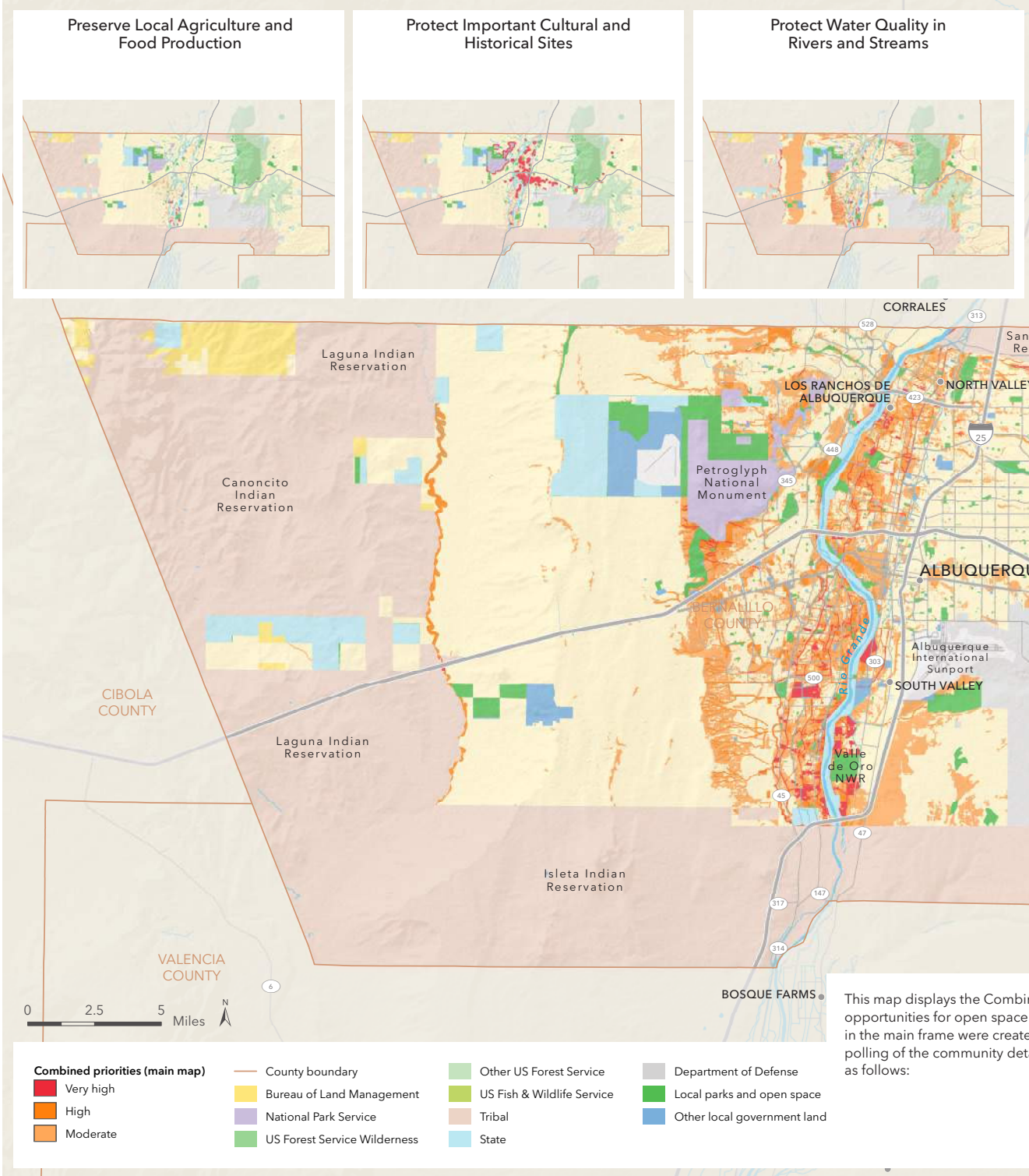


This map displays the Provide Public with Healthy Outdoor Recreation Priorities identified in the Bernalillo County Greenprint. These areas represent the best opportunities for open space within the county for the criteria results shown in the insets above. The Provide Public with Healthy Outdoor Recreation Priorities shown in the main frame were created by combining the criteria results using a weighted overlay analysis, with weights derived by the project Technical Advisory Team to reflect which criteria result provided the greatest benefit to the resource goal. The weights for each criteria are as follows:

- Adjacent to Existing Conserved Land (35%)
- Enhance opportunities for bird and wildlife watching (35%)
- Preserve open space lands in or near low-income urban neighborhoods (20%)
- Preserve land that could connect gaps in trail network (10%)



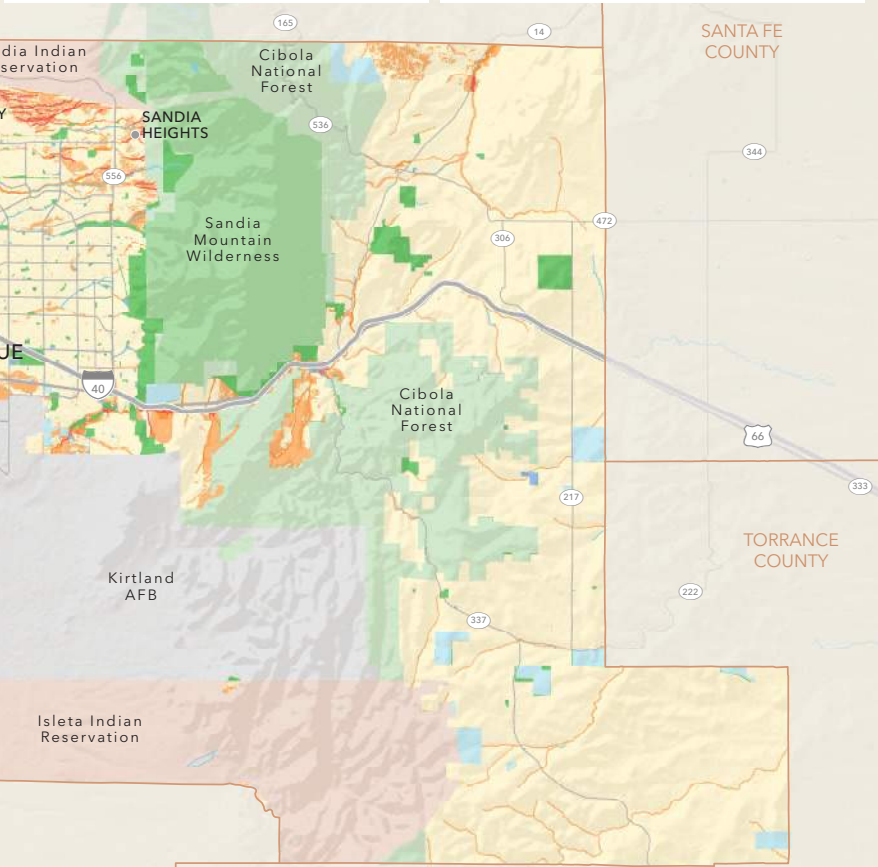
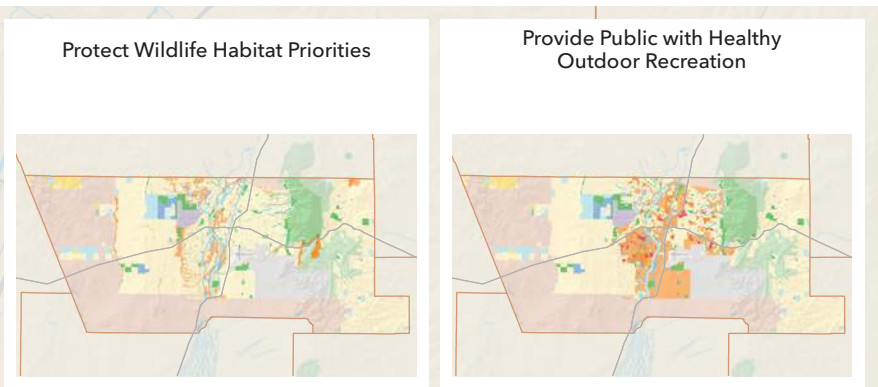
FIGURE 7 Special thanks to the following data providers: Bernalillo County. Copyright © The Trust for Public Land. The Trust for Public Land and The Trust for Public Land logo are federally registered marks of The Trust for Public Land. Information on this map is provided for purposes of discussion and visualization only.



This map displays the Combined opportunities for open space in the main frame were created from a community-driven polling of the community det as follows:

Combined priorities

BERNALILLO COUNTY GREENPRINT: A COMMUNITY-DRIVEN CONSERVATION PLAN



Combined Conservation Priorities identified in the Bernalillo County Greenprint. These areas represent the best within the county for the five resource goals shown in the insets above. The Combined Priorities shown are derived by combining the five resource goals using a weighted overlay analysis, with weights derived from ranking the issues they believe are most critical for open space acquisition. The weights for each goal are:

- Protect Water Quality in Rivers and Streams (30%)
- Protect Wildlife Habitat (22%)
- Preserve Local Agriculture and Food Production (18%)
- Protect Important Cultural and Historical Sites (15%)
- Provide Public Access to Healthy Outdoor Recreation (15%)



➤ **FIGURE 8** Special thanks to the following data providers: Bernalillo County. Copyright © The Trust for Public Land. The Trust for Public Land and The Trust for Public Land logo are federally registered marks of The Trust for Public Land. Information on this map is provided for purposes of discussion and visualization only.

Combined Priorities

For the combined priorities map, each goal was weighted by the technical advisory team and vetted and approved by the steering committee. The [combined priorities map \(shown in figure 8\)](#) shows areas where the “stacked” goals overlap. By determining where the greatest number of community goals can be met through conservation, Greenprint maps identify the areas that would get “the most bang for the conservation buck.”

The final goal weights were approved by both the technical advisory team and the stakeholder participants in the March 2017 meeting. The highest concentration of overall priority areas are in the southern part of the county near Valle de Oro, but priority lands are located throughout the county in each commission district, including the most urban areas.

GOAL WEIGHTS

- Protect water quality in rivers and streams (30 percent)
- Preserve local agriculture and food production (18 percent)
- Protect wildlife habitat (22 percent)
- Protect important cultural and historical lands and sites (15 percent)
- Provide public access to healthy outdoor recreation (15 percent)

Please note that given the scale of analysis and the resources identified by the community, most of the highest priority lands in

the combined priorities map are found in more rural areas where there are more opportunities for protecting water quality, wildlife, and farmland.

The combined priorities map is not the only resource that will be used to prioritize areas for open space protection. There is also a web tool that will be used by the county and by other partners to set priorities. This web tool includes additional ways to analyze data that take into account the values and policies outlined in the PROS Plan. Through the web tool, users can assess a variety of scenarios to maximize conservation opportunities according to specific goals. For example, the web tool can show potential conservation areas adjacent to existing open spaces, as well as potential conservation areas that may be especially valuable from a community health perspective. The County plans to use a different (smaller) size filter to screen potential open space acquisitions in urban areas. See “Setting Priorities for Future Conservation” on the next page.

TABLE 8. COMBINED PRIORITIES

| Priority | Acres |
|-----------|------------|
| Very high | 11,458.90 |
| High | 28,889.30 |
| Moderate | 92,450.28 |
| Total | 132,798.48 |

Setting Priorities for Future Conservation

How will the Greenprint help set future conservation priorities? The county and other partners will be able to use the tool to determine how well the five Greenprint goals would be met. In addition, the tool allows users to ask if a particular property

- Is in an open space deficient area
- Is in a community health vulnerable area
- Meets the county PROS criteria for highest suitability met

- Is a particular minimum size
- Is adjacent to existing park or open space
- Is adjacent to an acequia
- Is an existing or former land grant
- Has other collaborators/funders for the project

All of these additional criteria, among others, will help determine which areas are the highest priorities for open space protection.

5. Action Plan

IMPLEMENTATION STEPS FOR THE BERNALILLO COUNTY GREENPRINT ACTION PLAN were developed and refined during steering committee meetings in December 2016 and March 2017.

Participants felt most strongly about the need to educate elected officials about the Greenprint and about the need to create

youth-oriented education and outreach. Participants also emphasized the need for strong communications and promotion; developer education; expansion of green infrastructure; and the need to integrate with city and county planning and plans.

TABLE 9. ACTION PLAN SUMMARY FOR THE BERNALILLO COUNTY GREENPRINT

| What and How | Who | When |
|--|---|---------------------|
| A. PROTECT HIGHEST-PRIORITY LOCAL LANDS AND RESOURCES | | |
| <p>A.1. Map highest-priority areas for conservation based on best scientific data and community input</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maps should be used in strategic planning by Bernalillo County and other local governments, especially for identifying new voluntary conservation opportunities | The Trust for Public Land and core team | Spring/ Summer 2017 |
| <p>A.2. Develop transparent and equitable process for reviewing and evaluating specific parcels suggested by members of the County Commission, other conservation stakeholders, and members of the public as potential acquisition projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Process developed should include triggering event (e.g. directive from the County Manager) and development and would result in a staff recommendation • Propose resolution and Administrative Instruction that outlines process to be adopted by Commission | Core team, Rio Grande Agricultural Land Trust, Soil and Water Conservation District, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Albuquerque Metropolitan Arroyo Flood Control Authority, Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District, City of Albuquerque | 2017 |

TABLE 9. ACTION PLAN SUMMARY FOR THE BERNALILLO COUNTY GREENPRINT

| What and How | Who | When |
|--|--|----------------------|
| A. PROTECT HIGHEST-PRIORITY LOCAL LANDS AND RESOURCES | | |
| <p>A.3. Explore non-acquisition strategies for protecting land</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use Greenprint as a starting point to work with landowners and land managers on best management practices • Promote low-impact development (LID) in areas where development is appropriate • Work to expand, enhance, and permanently preserve potential green infrastructure, such as drainage ponds and irrigation ditches, through an Inter-Governmental Agreement (IGA) and Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) • Develop focus areas for future collaborative acquisition efforts to support broader environment conservation and community health policies (e.g. Cultivating Bernalillo County / Grow the Growers Program, Tijeras Watershed Collaborative) • Work with County Planning to develop further the Open Space Zone, transfer of development rights/planned development areas, and open space set-aside ordinance to create more opportunities for open space to be preserved through development process • Engage local land trusts and agencies in developing conservation easement and other strategies to protect highest-priority areas | <p>Core team, Rio Grande Agricultural Land Trust, Soil and Water Conservation District, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Albuquerque Metropolitan Arroyo Flood Control Authority, Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District, City of Albuquerque</p> | <p>2017, ongoing</p> |
| <p>A.4. Develop education programs to promote appreciation and stewardship of close-to-home nature</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop signage about good stewardship in outdoor areas that people are already visiting • Develop an outreach program and encourage an open space guardian program for local schools • Assemble materials and train volunteers to do outreach at local schools with a focus on youth engagement • Host programs and presentations at local church groups and schools to engage diverse audiences • Focus on how implementing the Greenprint can improve community health | <p>Core team, Bernalillo County Open Space</p> | <p>2017, ongoing</p> |

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

TABLE 9. ACTION PLAN SUMMARY FOR THE BERNALILLO COUNTY GREENPRINT

| What and How | Who | When |
|--|--|-------------|
| B. DEVELOP A STRONG COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY FOR THE GREENPRINT | | |
| <p>B.1. Build a communications strategy and outreach plan to showcase the benefits of the Greenprint</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop communications and branding plan for the Greenprint • As appropriate, the communications plan should include website, social media, newspaper, radio, classroom materials, and public open houses for diverse audiences • Information should be distributed in Spanish as well as in English • Reach out to key partners such as landowners, developers, and elected officials with strategic communications • Host free public events, family programs, and guided tours • Host programs/presentations/webinars to landowners and developers | <p>Bernalillo County Parks and Recreation Department</p> | <p>2017</p> |
| <p>B.2. Engage and train champions to promote the objectives of the Greenprint. In addition to core team, potential champions include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Non-Governmental Organizations and civic groups • Hiking clubs • Chamber of Commerce • Churches • Schools • Soil and Water Conservation District • University of New Mexico | <p>Core team</p> | <p>2017</p> |

TABLE 9. ACTION PLAN SUMMARY FOR THE BERNALILLO COUNTY GREENPRINT

| What and How | Who | When |
|---|--|----------------------|
| C. INCORPORATE GREENPRINT INTO LOCAL PLANNING AND OPEN SPACE ACQUISITION EFFORTS | | |
| <p>C.1. Incorporate Greenprint into county plans and establish it as a key tool for prioritization of open space land acquisition</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create targeted materials and outreach for elected officials and planners • Work with County Commission to adopt the Greenprint as an addendum to the PROS Plan • Work with County Planning to develop Open Space Zone and OS Set-aside Ordinance to create more opportunities for conveyance of open space during development process • Evaluate properties in high-priority areas under Greenprint for preservation and identify strategies for preservation, including fee acquisition | <p>Bernalillo County Parks and Recreation Department to work with county commissioners</p> | <p>2017</p> |
| D. DEVELOP A LONG-TERM STRATEGY FOR USING, UPDATING, AND ADAPTING THE GREENPRINT | | |
| <p>D.1. Coordinate Greenprint updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a mechanism through which the Greenprint and its corresponding communications strategy can be updated; ensure that updates happen annually (or more often) • Ensure that information about data sources is thorough and easily available in order to facilitate updates | <p>The Trust for Public Land</p> | <p>2017, ongoing</p> |

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

| TABLE 9. ACTION PLAN SUMMARY FOR THE BERNALILLO COUNTY GREENPRINT | | |
|--|---|-------------------|
| What and How | Who | When |
| D. DEVELOP A LONG-TERM STRATEGY FOR USING, UPDATING, AND ADAPTING THE COMMUNITY CONSERVATION PLAN | | |
| D.2. Evaluate the Greenprint annually, including 12 months after implementation, for 5-10 years | The Trust for Public Land | Ongoing—annually |
| D.3. Convene core team twice per year to assess progress and adapt to changes as necessary | The Trust for Public Land | Ongoing—quarterly |
| E. IDENTIFY AND PURSUE TRADITIONAL AND NONTRADITIONAL FUNDING SOURCES OR ACTIONS TO IMPLEMENT THE GREENPRINT | | |
| E.1. Integrate the Greenprint with prioritization of spending for mill levy funds | Bernalillo County | 2017, ongoing |
| E.2. Work with state and federal agencies to pursue grant funding for priority acquisitions (and stewardship) | Core team | 2017, ongoing |
| E.3. Identify potential incentives to assist landowners with voluntary conservation | Core team, local governments, land trusts, Natural Resources Conservation Service | 2017, ongoing |

6. Conclusion

BERNALILLO COUNTY RESIDENTS TRULY CARE about protecting open space as a means to protect water and wildlife, but also as a means to preserve agriculture and cultural traditions and to connect urban communities to the outdoors. As mentioned at the beginning of this report, the Greenprint is about helping to protect the heart of what makes Bernalillo County special. The county needs clean water in its rivers and streams. It needs thriving farms and ranches. It needs protected habitats

and corridors for threatened wildlife. It needs to be able to continue to preserve and to use sites that are crucial to local cultural traditions. And it needs expanded access to trails and parks so that every county resident can take advantage of the physical and mental benefits of being active outdoors. Protecting open space can do all of this. By showing where conservation can meet these needs at the same time, this Greenprint points the way.



Carlito Springs

7. Participants

TABLE 10. INTERVIEWEES

| Name | Organization |
|----------------------------|---|
| Alison Hagerman | McCune Foundation |
| Commissioner Hart Stebbins | County Commission |
| Commissioner Wayne Johnson | County Commission |
| Dolores Herrera | Office of Commissioner Art de la Cruz |
| Frank Chavez | Department of Environment, Sandia Pueblo |
| Jim Strozier | Consensus Planning |
| Joanna Colangelo | Albuquerque Community Foundation |
| Matt Schmader | Albuquerque Parks and Recreation Department |
| Steve Wentworth | Alameda North Valley Association |
| Vince Murphy | Bernalillo County, Deputy County Manager |
| Yasmeen Namji | Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District |

TABLE 11. STAKEHOLDER MEETING PARTICIPANTS

| Name | Organization |
|-------------------|--|
| Adrian Oglesby | Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District |
| Amy Morris | The Trust for Public Land |
| Ann Simon | Mid-Region Council of Governments |
| Annette Colbert | |
| Bernadette Miera | Bernalillo County |
| Beth Dillingham | Rio Grande State Parks |
| Bruce Milne | University of New Mexico Institute of Sustainability |
| Cecilia Rosacker | Rio Grande Agricultural Land Trust |
| Clay Campbell | Bernalillo County |
| Colleen McRoberts | Bernalillo County Open Space |

TABLE 11. STAKEHOLDER MEETING PARTICIPANTS

| Name | Organization |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Commissioner Steven Michael Quezada | County Commission |
| Dan McGregor | Bernalillo County |
| David Williams | Senator Tom Udall's Office |
| Debbie Jo Almager | Bernalillo County Parks and Recreation |
| Diane Reese | Hubbell House Alliance |
| Diane Souder | National Park Service, Petroglyph National Monument |
| Ed Martinez | Bernalillo County Parks Land Management |
| Elaine Hebard | |
| Greg Gould | |
| Greg Hiner | The Trust for Public Land |
| Hanh Nguyen | |
| Jeff Willis | Albuquerque Metropolitan Arroyo Flood Control Authority |
| Jennifer Owen-White | Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge |
| Jerry Lovato | Albuquerque Metropolitan Arroyo Flood Control Authority |
| Jill Williams | Bernalillo County GIS |
| Joe Garcia | |
| John Barney | Bernalillo County Parks and Recreation |
| John Wright | Querencia Institute |
| Kate Lenzer | The Trust for Public Land |
| Kathy Ferris | Bernalillo County |
| Kendra Montanari | Mid-Region Council of Governments |
| Lisa Powell | Bernalillo County Open Space |
| Lorraine Duran | |

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TABLE 11. STAKEHOLDER MEETING PARTICIPANTS

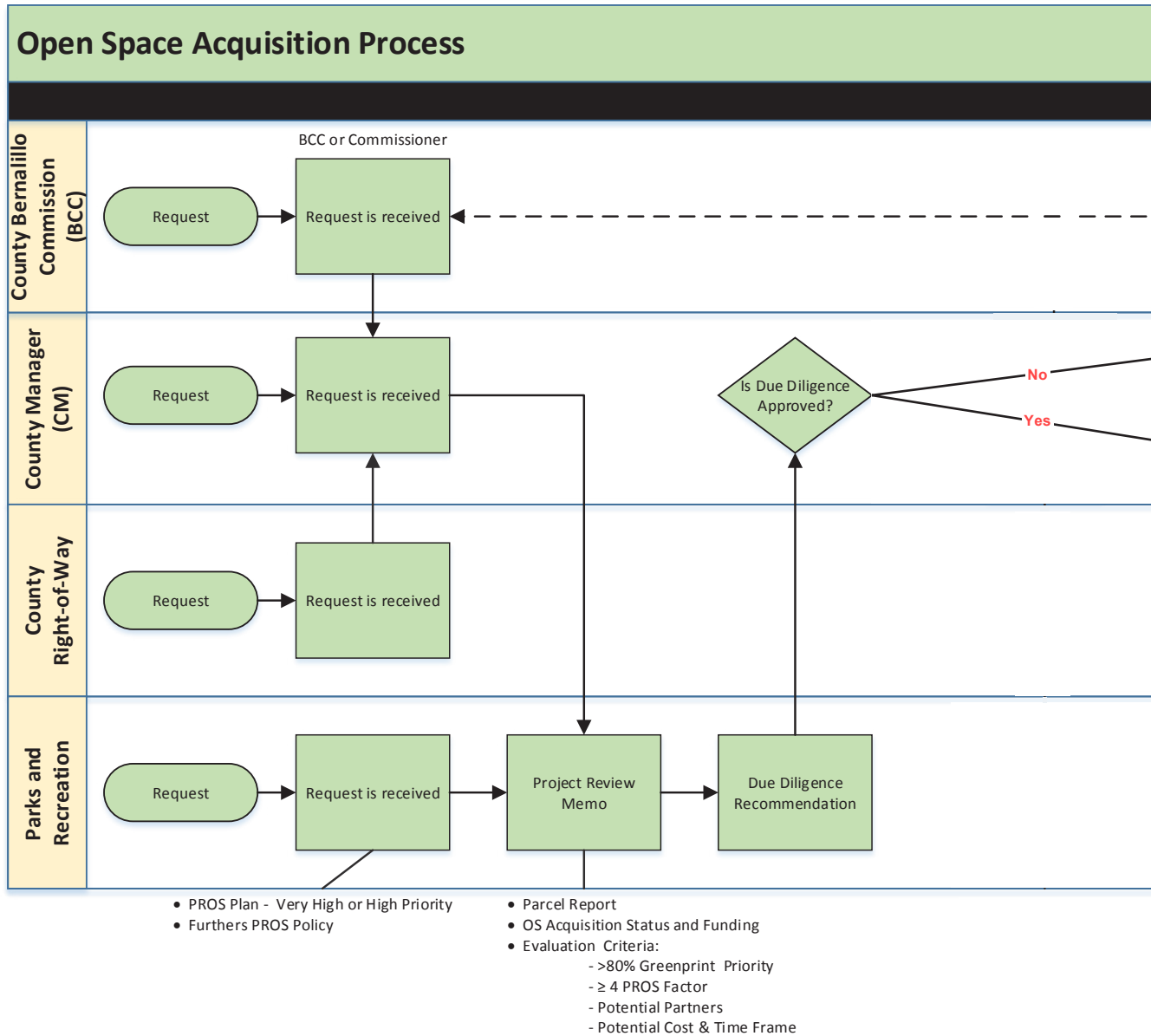
| Name | Organization |
|----------------------|---|
| Lynn Mazur | Albuquerque Metropolitan Arroyo Flood Control Authority |
| Mari Simbana | Bernalillo County |
| Mark Jacobson | |
| Matt Schmader | City of Albuquerque |
| Michael Casaus | The Wilderness Society |
| Michael Jensen | Albuquerque Open Space Advisory Board |
| Michael Jones | |
| Michelle Luna | Office of Commissioner Quezada |
| Mitchel Hannon | The Trust for Public Land |
| Moises Gonzales | The Wilderness Society |
| Nathan Hendrix | Bernalillo County GIS |
| Nathan Smith | resident |
| Nathan Todd | CABQ Open Space Division |
| Patricia Gallegos | The Wilderness Society |
| Ric Watson | Friends of Valle de Oro |
| Rick Billings | Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority |
| Sarah Hurteau | The Nature Conservancy |
| Sarah Ljadi | Mid-Region Council of Governments |
| Sarah Wentzel-Fisher | Rio Grande Agricultural Land Trust |
| Stephen Daw | Bernalillo County GIS |
| Steve Glass | Soil and Water Conservation District |
| Thomas Scharmen | Department of Health |
| Tricia Keffer | CABQ Open Space Division |
| Vince Murphy | Deputy County Manager, Bernalillo County |
| Yasmeen Najmi | Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District |
| Zoe Economou | Ciudad Soil and Water Conservation District |

TABLE 12: TECHNICAL ADVISORY TEAM PARTICIPANTS AND ADDITIONAL ADVISORS

| Name | Organization |
|--------------------|---|
| Andrew Hautzinger | USFWS |
| Bernadette Miera | Bernalillo Cultural Services |
| Bruce Milne | UNM |
| Christina Sandoval | Albuquerque Parks and Recreation |
| Chuck Hayes | New Mexico Department of Game and Fish |
| John Barney | Bernalillo County |
| Joran Viers | City of Albuquerque Forester |
| Julie Luna | Bernalillo County Public Works |
| Kendra Montanari | Middle Rio Grande Council of Governments |
| Laura Bexfield | USGS |
| Lynn Mazur | Albuquerque Metropolitan Arroyo Flood Control Authority |
| Mari Simbana | Bernalillo County Zoning and Planning |
| Matt Schmader | City of Albuquerque |
| Megan Friggens | United States Forest Service biologist |
| Nathan Myers | USGS |
| Paul Tashjian | USFWS |
| Rayo McCollough | NM Natural History Program |
| Richard Meadows | Bernalillo County Public Works |
| Rick Billings | Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Authority |
| Sarah Hurteau | The Nature Conservancy |
| Thomas Scharmen | Department of Health |
| Yasmeen Najmi | Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District |

Open Space Acquisition Process Diagram

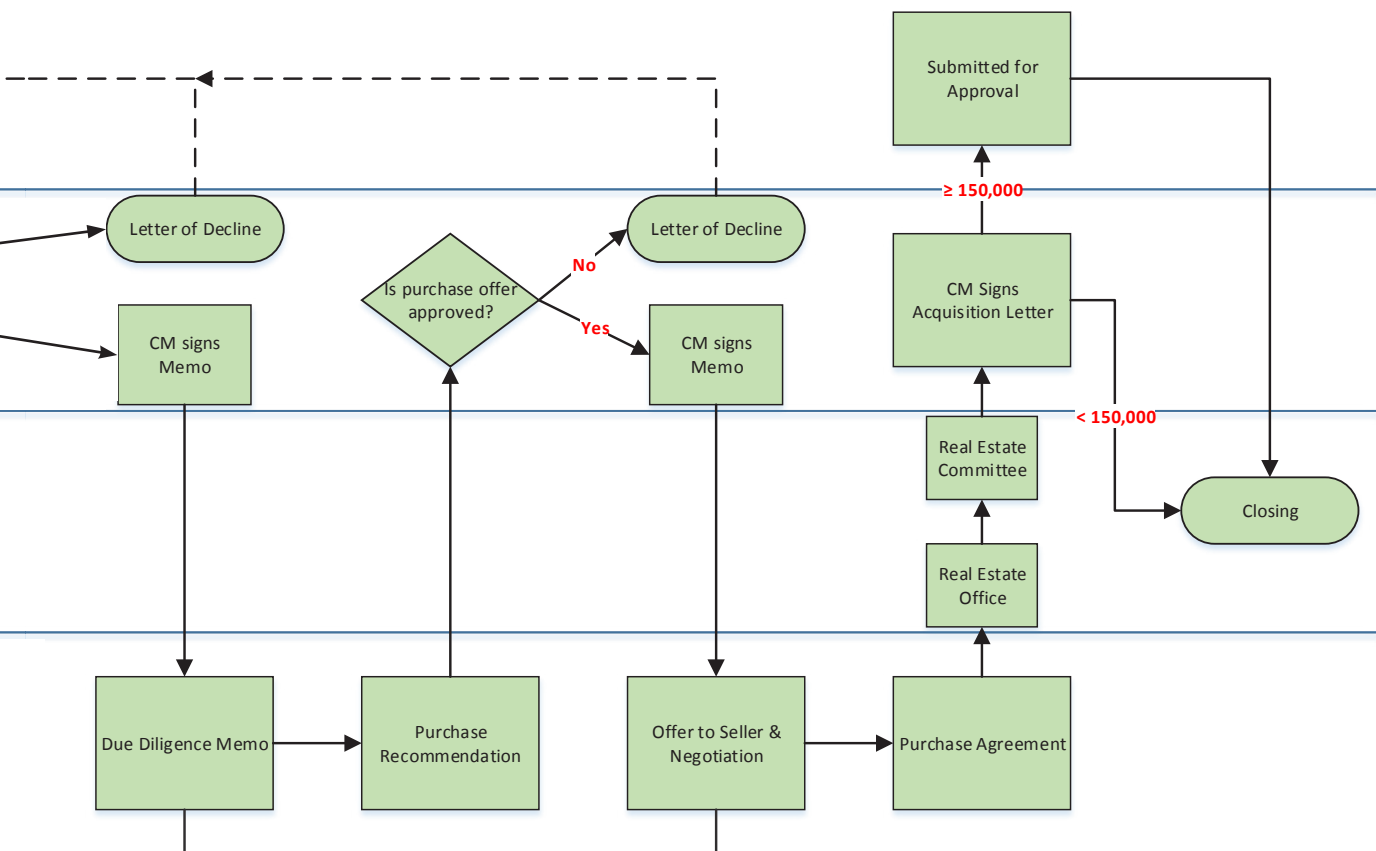
➔ FIGURE 9



THE BERNALILLO COUNTY COMMISSION unanimously approved the adoption of the Bernalillo County Greenprint in October 2017 as the policy guidance for future open space acquisitions. As part of the resolution, the County also approved the Greenprint Report and the Bernalillo County Open Space

Acquisition Process (see figure 9) The Greenprint Process was developed by County Staff and The Trust for Public Land in the fall of 2017 in order to create a consistent and transparent process for reviewing requests from the community and political representatives with respect to potential acquisition projects.

2017



- Appraisal
- Environmental Phase 1
- Title Search
- Water Rights Evaluation
- Development Cost Evaluation
- Operations & Maintenance Costs Evaluation
- Zoning and Permitting Evaluation
- Environmental Assessment @Identification of Unique Management Challenges
- Evaluation of Potential Programing
- Identification with consultation with potential partners, e.g. funding, management, etc.
- Identify potential acquisition strategy and time line

- Must be Less than Appraisal + 10%
- Potential Conditions:
 - Zoning Approval
 - Environmental Phase 2
 - Title Issue Resolution
 - Site Clean Up

Bernalillo County Board of Commissioners Administrative Resolution

THE GREENPRINT PROCESS HAS TWO STAGES once a request has been initiated by a submittal of the request to the County Manager. In the first stage, the Greenprint Evaluation Tool is used as an initial filter for County staff to develop a recommendation as to whether to pursue a particular project or not. Staff will recommend a project only if it has a Greenprint overall evaluation score of greater 80% and meets four or more of the 'Additional Evaluation Criteria.' The second stage is a due diligence phase, in which County staff, along with The Trust for Public Land and other stakeholders or consultants involved in the project, will perform a

full investigation of the subject property from appraisal, title research and environmental phase 1 to evaluation of estimated costs of improvements and ongoing maintenance required for the County operate the property as a public open space. After the due diligence stage, County staff will develop a final recommendation and submit the project to the County Manager for final approval. Depending on the total cost of the property, the County Manager will make the final decision (up to \$120,000), or submit to the Bernalillo County Commission to decide through a vote (greater than \$120,000).

BERNALILLO COUNTY

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

ADMINISTRATIVE RESOLUTION NO. 2017-69

1 **A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING THE BERNALILLO COUNTY GREENPRINT AND**
2 **OPEN SPACE PROJECT EVALUATION PROCESS**

3
4 **WHEREAS**, the Board of County Commissioners of Bernalillo County, New Mexico
5 (“Board”) adopted a resolution on June 10, 2014 placing the following question on the
6 November 4, 2014 ballot:

7 *Shall the County of Bernalillo, New Mexico establish a 0.20 Mill Levy for 15*
8 *years for the purposes of acquiring, improving, operating, and maintaining*
9 *natural areas, open spaces, and cultural, historic and nature education sites*
10 *within the county to protect drinking water sources, wildlife habitat, and*
11 *agricultural land, including along the Rio Grande, and to allow children and*
12 *families to get outdoors in nature, with all expenditures subject to independent*
13 *annual audit and citizen review?*
14

15 **WHEREAS**, residents of the County of Bernalillo, New Mexico (“County”) voted
16 overwhelmingly to establish said 0.20 mill levy for 15 years to acquire, improve, operate and
17 maintain natural areas, open spaces and cultural, historic and nature education sites within the
18 County (“Mill Levy”); and

19 **WHEREAS**, beginning with the 2015 Property Tax Bills distributed in November 2015,

20 the County began collecting revenues (“Mill Levy Funds”) pursuant to the Mill Levy and will
21 continue to do so through 2030; and

22 **WHEREAS**, the Board adopted the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Facilities Master
23 Plan on October 27, 2015, which has certain policies and recommendations pertaining to the
24 acquisition of open spaces in the County (“County Open Space”), including the following:

25 **COMMUNITY-BASED AGRICULTURE....**
26 **2. Establish a land preservation strategy for working farms and ranches in**
27 **Bernalillo County. ...**

CONTINUATION PAGE 2, ADMINISTRATIVE RESOLUTION AR 2017- 69 .

1 • *Conduct a “Greenprint” mapping study to identify prime agricultural*
2 *lands for preservation....*

3 and

4 **FACILITY AND LAND ACQUISITION FOR PARKS, RECREATION AND**
5 **OPEN SPACE FACILITIES....**

6 **5. Implementation:**

7 • *Adopt an administrative instruction for park and open space acquisitions,*
8 *or amend AI IP#01, to include these policies and define standards for land*
9 *preservation agreements.*

10 • *Conduct a mapping study to identify priority open space lands. The study*
11 *would incorporate the policies, criteria and priorities developed in the*
12 *PROS Plan as a starting point for evaluating and prioritizing lands for*
13 *future acquisition or preservation.*
14

15 **WHEREAS**, the County contracted with the Trust for Public Land (TPL) in January
16 2016 to develop a community-based Greenprint for Bernalillo County to identify priority open
17 space lands in the County and develop a web-based tool for the County and its partners to
18 evaluate potential open space acquisitions, which would assist the County in making decisions
19 regarding the acquisition of future open space lands.

20 **WHEREAS**, the TPL conducted a survey on-line and over the phone in the spring of
21 2016, and the County and TPL have hosted seven steering committee meetings with
22 representatives of a number of agencies and non-government organizations and interested
23 members of the public in Bernalillo County and used that input and feedback to develop the
24 Bernalillo County Greenprint and the web-based Bernalillo County Project Reviewer.

25 **WHEREAS**, the County adopted the Mill Levy Disposition Policy on March 15, 2017,
26 which provides that a total of \$1,350,000 of the funds collected as a result of the Mill Levy will
27 be dedicated to acquisition of new open space.

28 **WHEREAS**, the County and its representatives receive numerous requests each month to
29 acquire properties for County Open Space, and there are limited funds for acquiring properties
30 and for developing and maintaining those properties as County Open Space once acquired.

CONTINUATION PAGE 3, ADMINISTRATIVE RESOLUTION AR 2017- 69 .

1 **WHEREAS**, members of the Commission and the County Manager have requested a
2 transparent and fair process for evaluating and recommending to the Commission properties for
3 acquisition.

4 **NOW, THEREFORE**, be it resolved by the Board of County Commissioners, the
5 governing body of the County of Bernalillo, that

6 **1. Approval of Bernalillo County Greenprint and Project Reviewer**
7

8 The Bernalillo County Greenprint, including the Bernalillo County Greenprint Report and
9 Bernalillo Greenprint Project Reviewer is hereby adopted by the County to evaluate and guide
10 recommendations to the Commission for future Open Space acquisitions.
11

12 **2. Evaluation Process for Potential Open Space Projects**
13

14 A. All properties for potential acquisition by the County as open space (“Open Space
15 Acquisition Projects”) will be evaluated by Parks & Recreation Staff prior to being recommended
16 for acquisition to the County Manager, the County Real Estate Committee and the Board of
17 Commissioners.
18

19 B. Evaluation of a property for potential open space acquisition (“Open Space Acquisition
20 Project”) will be initiated in the following two ways:
21

- 22 1. By written request to the County Manager; or
23
24 2. By the Director of Parks & Recreation if the project implements a policy or Very
25 High or High Priority project as identified in the PROS Plan.
26

27 C. Every Open Space Acquisition Project shall be evaluated using the Bernalillo County
28 Project Reviewer with a recommendation based on the results being made to the County Manager
29 with a summary of other Open Space Projects already in-process. Based on that evaluation and
30 recommendation, the County Manager may authorize an appraisal, due diligence and evaluation of
31 potential costs of developing and operating the property as a County Open Space (“Open Space
32 Due Diligence Process”). The date of authorization by the County Manager shall signify the
33 beginning of the acquisition process for a given project, giving it priority over subsequent projects
34 on the Open Space Acquisition Project List (see Section IV).
35

36 D. Upon completion of the Open Space Due Diligence Process the County Manager may
37 authorize acquisition of the Open Space Project.
38

39 **3. Amendment of AI No. IP01 Real Property Acquisition and Disposition**
40

41 The above referenced Administrative Instruction shall be amended to provide for the process
42 outlined in Section II.
43

1 **4. Open Space Acquisition Project List**

2
3 County Parks & Recreation Staff shall maintain an Open Space Acquisition Project List
4 that includes all Open Space Acquisition Projects completed or in-process using the 2014
5 Mill Levy funds. The List shall be in priority order based on the date of authorization of
6 the Open Space Due Diligence Process by the County Manager.
7
8

9 **5. Annual Reporting to the Board of Commissioners**

10 In the Annual Report on County Open Space to the Commission, County Open Space staff shall
11 provide a summary of Open Space acquisitions during the previous year and the status of all
12 projects on the Open Space Acquisition Project list.
13

14 **DONE** this 24th day of October, 2017.
15

16 **BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

17 **EXCUSED**

18
19 Debbie O'Malley, Chair

20
21 Steven Michael Quezada, Vice Chair

22
23 Maggie Hart Stebbins, Member

24 **EXCUSED**

25
26 Lonnie C. Talbert, Member

27
28 Wayne A. Johnson, Member



29
30
31 APPROVED AS TO FORM:

32
33 W. Ken Martinez, County Attorney
34
35

36 ATTEST:

37 Linda Stover
38 Linda Stover
39 County Clerk

40



THE
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FOR
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LAND

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