



Friends of the Sandia Mountains  
friendsofthesandias.org

# Friends of the Sandia Mountains

General Membership Meeting  
September 6, 2022

Featured speaker:  
Jessica Sapunar-Jursich, City of Albuquerque Open Space Division





## Agenda

- President's Remarks – Mike Madden
- Projects Report – Sam Beard
- Treasurer's Report – Tim Brown
- Program – Jessica Sapunar-Jursich, City of Albuquerque Open Space Division, "Increasing Outdoor Access: City of Albuquerque Neighborhood Open Space Initiative Year 1 Review"
- Q&As
- Future Programs – Cliff Giles
- Adjourn





## President's Remarks, Mike Madden

- Notables since our August 2 General Meeting:
  - Welcome six new members: Cynthia Bresloff, Rowan Vance, David Galbraith, Carl and Karen Carlson, William Kearns
  - Cienega/Sulphur sign is up! (and 11 crest area info panels are on order)
  - Spent \$5K REI grant funds
  - Received a generous \$1K donation!
  - Purchased two new gas chainsaws with funds raised by Watermelon 100
  - Staffed a table on two Saturdays of REI Labor Day Sale
  - Need a Paint Crew Leader!
  - Elections are this month!



## President's Remarks, Mike Madden

- Notables since our August 2 General Meeting:
  - Sally Lowder stepping down from board of directors (**after 17 years!**) but will continue to manage memberships and publish her trail tree report
  - Snowshoe Race Committee is forming, with a January 21, 2023 race date
  - Adopt-A-Hwy, waiting for NMDOT to cut the brush
  - Lou Romero organizing two upcoming outreach opportunities:
    - 9/10 - Workday gathering firewood for church ministry with Boy Scout Troop 8 (supported by Sam Beard)
    - 9/26 and 10/31 - Classroom and field orientation for 40 Digital Arts and Technology Academy (DATA) 8<sup>th</sup> graders (supported by Rene Archer, Sam Beard, Dan Benton, and Cliff Giles)





## Projects Report, Sam Beard, Projects Chair

- Summary of Outings Since July Meeting
  - Trail Maintenance – 7
  - Trail Construction – 4
  - Paint and Graffiti – 4
  - General Projects – 8
  - Total Number of Outings – 23

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## Projects Report, Sam Beard, Projects Chair

- Trail Maintenance Led by Bob Lowder (7 outings)
  - August 1 – Capulin Peak Trail tree removal plus brushing & limbing, Monday crew
  - August 3 – Rocky Point/Gravel Pit, trees plus some cleanup work, Bob & Sally
  - August 8 – Faulty, Wagon, Sulphur, Armijo Trails tree removal, Monday crew
  - August 11 – Crest area/Spur Trail, Upper La Luz, 130S, Switchback trees (big day of 9 trees), Bob & Sally
  - August 15 – Sulphur, Faulty, Bill Spring trees, Monday crew
  - August 22 – Lower Switchback to Crest Trail, Rocky Point, removed deadfall and 6 leaners, Monday crew led by Byron Garner
  - August 29 – La Luz Trail, removed 3 trees plus 2 spring poles, Monday crew led by Byron Garner





## Projects Report, Sam Beard, Projects Chair

- Trail Construction Led by Jenny Blackmore (4 outings)
  - August 11 – Challenge Trail Extension
  - August 18 – Challenge Trail Extension
  - August 25 – Challenge Trail Extension
  - September 1 – Challenge Trail Extension
- Benched in roughly ½ mile of new trail tread on steep side slope between Tree Spring Trail and Bill Spring Trail.



## Projects Report, Sam Beard, Projects Chair

- Paint Projects Led by Anne Hickman (4 outings)
  - August 2 – Striping upper Crest parking lot and 2 lower lots at Sulfur Canyon PA
  - August 9 – Striping of Crest and Tree Springs parking lots
  - August 16 – Striping mid-level Crest parking lot and painting small signs at Cienega horse trailer lot
  - August 30 – Completed Sandia Crest parking lot striping and striping Cienega parking lot. Painted diagonal white pedestrian crossing lines on Cienega road





## Projects Report, Sam Beard, Projects Chair

- General Projects Led by Sam Beard (1 to 4 of 8 outings)
  - August 3 – Removed 7 hazard trees in Cienega and lower Capulin PAs and at 10K N Trailhead
  - August 6 – Removed graffiti at upper Crest parking lot and felled 21-inch hazard tree at 10KN Trailhead
  - August 10 – Bucked and split fallen 24-inch pine at Tree Spring Trailhead and donated the wood to Mountain Christian Church Wood Ministry
  - August 17 – Removed 9 hazard trees in Las Huertas PA and 10 along Sandia Cave Trail



## Projects Report, Sam Beard, Projects Chair

- General Projects Led by Sam Beard (5 to 8 of 8 outings)
  - August 24 – Felled and limbed 29-inch hazard tree and installed 6 new table benches at Pine Flat PA
  - August 25 – Installed 4 new picnic table benches at Pine Flat PA
  - August 31 – Felled and limbed 21-inch dead pine and installed 4 new table benches at Pine Flat PA
  - August 31 – Installed new sign at road intersection to Cienega PA and Sulphur PA (ordered by Don Carnicom)





## Program Introduction, Cliff Giles, Vice–President

- **Speaker: Jessica Sapunar-Jursich, City of Albuquerque Open Space Division**
  - Education Supervisor for the City of Albuquerque Open Space Division
  - Passionate about connecting people of all ages to the joy and benefits of time spent in nature.
  - Implemented nature-based programming for infants and parents, families, youth, and adults on public lands in New Mexico for over twenty years.
  - Bachelor’s in Natural Resources Management from UNM in 1999, Masters in Environmental Education from UNM in 2001, graduate program in Curriculum and Instructional Leadership and K-8 Elementary Teaching License with endorsements in science and social studies from College of Santa Fe in 2004.
  - Mother of two
  - Childlike enthusiasm and curiosity for exploring in nature and sharing that excitement with others.



## Program Introduction, Cliff Giles, Vice–President

- "Increasing Outdoor Access: City of Albuquerque Neighborhood Open Space Initiative Year 1 Review"
  - Research supports that regular time outdoors helps children thrive. However, on average, today's kids spend up to 44 hours per week in front of a screen, and less than 10 minutes a day playing outdoors. And for too many kids, access to nature is determined by race, income, and zip code. With little time for nature exploration, children miss out on critical opportunities for social, physical, and cognitive growth. Inequitable access to the outdoors is not limited to youth, and an abundance of research demonstrates the inequality of physical and mental health outcomes based on access level to the outdoors.
  - The City of Albuquerque Open Space Division has completed its first year of programming aimed at increasing and supporting equitable access to public lands for all members of our community. The Neighborhood Open Space Initiative is a diverse and scaffolded slate of programs working to dismantle systemic barriers through innovative programming rooted in community partnerships and locally based.





## Future Programs, Cliff Giles, Vice–President

- October 4 – Mike Madden, State of FOSM and annual election results (Zoom)
- Searching for in-person meeting facility for next year. Considerations:
  - Rental fees
  - Insurance requirements
  - Membership residence distribution