The Greater Community
Stories about planning and places in New Mexico

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2010-2011
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THE GREATER COMMUNITY
STORIES ABOUT PLANNING AND PLACES IN NEW MEXICO

COLLECTED AND COORDINATED BY THE
NEW MEXICO CHAPTER OF THE
AMERICAN PLANNING ASSOCIATION
AND CITIZENS AND PLANNERS FROM THROUGHOUT
THE LAND OF ENCHANTMENT

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Every place has a story—of how it was born, how it grew, how it will continue to adapt and thrive. The Greater Community is a collection of these stories. All of the thirteen selections in this book are written by local planners who know, whether through professional or personal connection, the unique stories of a particular place. Places from throughout the state are highlighted, from the bustling heart of Albuquerque's International District to the quiet countryside of the Mora Valley.

The 2007-2009 Board of the New Mexico Chapter of the American Planning Association (NMAPA) saw the project as an opportunity to bring together these stories and ideas so that citizens, planners, and local governments could learn about other communities and planning approaches. Born out of a desire to reach out to communities throughout the state and to facilitate an inclusive dialogue, this project is intended to serve as a useful tool for community planning and development.

This collection provides examples of how communities across the state have worked together to address complex issues concerning economic growth and development, historic preservation and restoration, community health and well-being. Collaboration is at the heart of this project—as is a commitment to community improvement. Story after story shows how residents, businesses, local governments, and federal agencies have come together to plan and implement real changes in their towns and cities.

This is the “greater community,” in all of its senses: people from across the state working together for positive change, along the way creating new stories that each particular place will come to tell as its own.

Acknowledgements

The NMAPA wishes to thank the Chapter Presidents Council of the American Planning Association (APA) and the APA Small Town and Rural Planning Division for their generous funding. The NMAPA would also like to give thanks to all of the authors for their valuable stories and ideas, to the University of New Mexico students who contributed to this project in various ways, and to everyone who was willing to share a story about their community. All of your efforts made the story of The Greater Community possible.
The Acequia Madre (or “Mother Ditch”) runs parallel to the Rio Grande in the Rio Grande Nature Center State Park in Albuquerque. This image depicts what many still consider to be the life blood of agriculture, culture and community in New Mexico.
Snow on The Organ Mountains

photo by
K. Naoma Staley

A rare snowfall on the Organ Mountains near Las Cruces.
Looking across the Rio Grande Nature Center pond toward the Sandia Mountains, cloaked in winter cloud cover.
tract by tract, the rural and traditional character of the middle Rio Grande Valley has been eroding. Up and down the valley, a landscape of fertile agriculture is transforming into cityscape. In the Albuquerque area, the trend started in the 1950s in the North Valley and has gradually spread south. Nowhere is this trend more pronounced than in the vicinity of the historic Gutierrez-Hubbell house, a 5,700 square-foot adobe structure built in the 1840s. Once a center of the Pajarito farming community, Gutierrez-Hubbell has been on the State of New Mexico Cultural Register since 1976.

The Pajarito Village Neighborhood Association: Public acquisition and rehabilitation of Gutierrez-Hubbell would not have happened without the foresight of the Pajarito Village Neighborhood Association (PVNA). Starting in 1997, Joe Hlifka led the PVNA’s opposition to a developer’s proposal to convert the historic structure into a restaurant and subdivide the surrounding farmland into a gated residential subdivision. The PVNA wished to acquire the property and convert it into a living history demonstration farm. Here, the best of old and new agricultural and architectural technology could be combined at one site. Gutierrez-Hubbell would become a destination where history, genealogy, agriculture, architecture, and open space could be blended into a unique cultural and educational asset for the public.

The community group that fought for the rehabilitation of Gutierrez-Hubbell would later evolve into the Hubbell House Alliance (HHA), intended to support Bernalillo County in the operation, programming, and maintenance of the property.

Open Space Funding: The PVNA succeeded in getting the County’s attention in late 1997 about the future of the property; one year later a
general obligation bond was scheduled to go before voters. The County’s relatively meager $16 million bond, however, had no room for Open Space. County Management suggested that Hubbell supporters organize with other County residents to get a property-tax funded mill levy approved by voters.

In August 1998, the County Commission approved a ballot question to let voters decide on Open Space funding. Thus was born S.O.S., Save Our Open Space. This grassroots effort succeeded in getting a two-year mill levy passed in November 1998 with 62% voter support. Approximately $12 million was raised in these two years so that the Gutierrez-Hubbell and four other agricultural and mountain properties could be purchased. The ten-acre Gutierrez-Hubbell property, including the main house and a smaller 1920s-era casita, were purchased for $620,548 in November 2000. These five properties became the basis for the nascent Bernalillo County Open Space program, housed in the Parks and Recreation Department.

Rehabilitation:
Since the Gutierrez-Hubbell House would become a community asset designed for

"Rehabilitation allowed the best of old earthen architecture to be combined with the requirements of modern building code and standards."
public use, rehabilitation was the obvious strategy for improving the property. It allowed the best of old earthen architecture to be combined with the requirements of modern building codes and standards.

A strategy for rehabilitation was articulated in the Historic Structures Report (HSR), which documented the property’s physical conditions, history, cultural landscape, and archaeology. The HSR concluded that 1870-1930 was the “period of significance” for the house and that all rehabilitation efforts should be aimed toward representing this sixty-year period.

Cultural Landscape Preservation:
A cultural landscape is a historic area that includes enough features—historic, natural, planted, and built—to indicate the patterns of life there during a particular time period or to express its historical evolution. Cultural landscape analysis helps define exactly what gives the landscape its historic character, identify what is important to preserve during rehabilitation, and guide the selection and installation of needed site improvements.

Productive agricultural land, cottonwood trees, site irrigation via the Pajarito Acequia, territorial architecture using adobe and milled lumber, and the status and contributions of the Hubbell family are all defining characteristics of the Gutierrez-Hubbell cultural landscape. Collectively, these traits are what motivated the PVNA to advocate public acquisition of the property in the 1990s. And these traits are what give the property an extreme power of place, particularly when understanding the significance of the Hubbell family.

Heritage of a Prominent Family:
The Gutierrez-Hubbell House symbolizes the joining of colonial Spanish grace and traditions with American entrepreneurship. It was the home of Juliana Gutierrez and James Lawrence “Santiago” Hubbell. Gutierrez was a descendant of some of the most powerful and wealthiest New Mexicans of Spanish descent, while Hubbell was a New England Yankee who came west to seek his fortune when New Mexico became a territory. Married in the early 1840s, the couple had twelve children, all of whom were raised in the historic South Valley house. Some children inherited the property in the late 1800s and continued...
raising children and undertaking diverse economic activities to earn a living and cement their status as the prominent family in Pajarito. Their family empire included the trading and selling of sheep, cattle, horses, guns, fruit, hay, wheat, corn, Indian rugs and pottery, and other goods as well as leadership roles in local law enforcement, politics, community
development, and mercantile efforts. The last living Hubbell family member residing in the house died in 1996, leaving a legacy to be kept alive.

Project Implementation:
Rehabilitation of the Gutierrez-Hubbell House was completed in September 2007, nearly seven years after Bernalillo County acquired the property. The HHA was now four years old with its own strategic plan, by-laws, board of directors, and committees. Staffed entirely by volunteers, the house opened to the public on a limited basis in the summer of 2008. No entrance fee was charged, and visitors were allowed to roam the house and property, with or without a volunteer docent, to learn about the Hubbell family, agriculture, territorial architecture, and cultural landscape.

The HHA has contracted to farm the eight acres of agricultural land and is allowed to keep the proceeds from sales of crops. Alfalfa is the primary crop planted, which is then harvested and sold to ranchers for livestock feed. The HHA intends to maintain records so that the farmland can be certified organic by the New Mexico Organic Commodity Commission. These farming efforts illustrate the best of the old (irrigation via the Pajarito Acequia) and the new (stringent organic certification standards). These efforts will help future generations understand how the food chain starts with basic products grown on agricultural land.

Project Funding:
The entire cost of purchasing and rehabilitating the property was approximately $3 million. Volunteer and pro-bono donations totaled approximately $700,000 in value, while State of New Mexico Capital Outlay grants between 1999 and 2007 provided $1,080,000. The National Trust/Save America’s Treasures program contributed $75,000 and the New Mexico Youth Conservation Corps provided a $143,000 grant in 2005. Remaining funds came from the Bernalillo County Open Space mill levy. It took eight years to assemble these funds based on the project’s rehabilitation design, concept, purpose, community advocacy, and the support of elected officials and Bernalillo County management.

Conclusion:
Bernalillo County elected officials, management, and project staff, together with the community and family descendants, helps keep the Hubbell legacy alive. Through their collaborative efforts, they endeavor to pay homage to the family and a place symbolic of westward expansion and territorial growth.
In 1692, Sergeant Major Roque Garcia fought for the “Reconquest” of New Mexico by the Spanish Crown. One year later, Garcia was awarded a land grant for his service by the General Don Diego de Vargas, and the village of Agua Fria was born. During this era, other lands were granted and the acequias from the Santa Fe River were extended to carry water to the flatlands of Agua Fria, which was to become the breadbasket of the city of Santa Fe.

The individual land grants of Agua Fria residents stretched from the Arroyo de los Chamisos (near present-day Santa Fe Place Mall) to the Arroyo de los Frijoles. The latter formed the southernmost boundary of the San Ildefonso Pueblo Grant, which spanned some five to seven miles in length. The lots were narrow in width and may have extended only 600 to 900 feet. The land supplied crucial resources, which enabled Agua Fria residents to be completely self-sufficient. The northern part of each lot was covered in juniper and pinon trees used as firewood; larger, straighter trees were used for building materials and could be found on the lands of the Caja del Rio Grant.

In 1776, according to a study conducted by Fray Francisco Dominguez, 29 families—totaling 257 people—lived in the village of Agua Fria. The study referred to the village as Quemado, a pueblo located on the north bank of the Santa Fe River that suffered a serious fire. It was not until the 1800s that the small village was referred to as Agua Fria. In 1835, villagers built the Church of San Isidro, named after the patron saint of farmers—an appropriate icon for the area’s major profession.

The State Engineer’s acequia maps of 1914 show that 170 fields were under cultivation, indicating that at least as many families occupied the area; of those fields, 93 percent were less than five acres each. Many Agua Fria residents earned their income from the abundant

**Agua Fria (Census Designated Place):** figures from the 2000 U.S. Census

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Total Population:</th>
<th>Median Household Income:</th>
<th>Average Household Size:</th>
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</tbody>
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**By William H. Mee**
natural resources of the land, selling adobe in summer, firewood and pinon nuts in the fall.

Native Americans in Agua Fria:
Native Americans also played a significant role in the history of Agua Fria. The village’s very name, in fact, comes from the Tewa and Tano peoples who lived along the Río Grande. They referred to the village as Ca-Tee-Ka, meaning “cold water,” which was later translated into Spanish as “Agua Fria.” The native people who lived in the area (and who later moved to Bandelier) also lived off the land, raising animals and farming through the use of river diversions and collection systems from the surrounding hills.

There are at least two major Late Puebloan archaeological sites in the area: the Agua Fria Schoolhouse Site and the Pindi Pueblo. The Pindi Pueblo is the oldest and largest site from the Coalition Period (1200-1325 C.E.). Much of the pueblo, located on the south bank of the Santa Fe River near the San Ysidro Crossing, remains unexcavated. The pueblo was named Pindi, meaning “turkey” in Tewa, apparently because the indigenous peoples of the area raised these newly domesticated birds.

The Pindi Pueblo was abandoned several times throughout its history. In 1260, the indigenous population fled when a severe drought plagued the area. Almost three hundred years later, the pueblo was abandoned again when the Spanish conquistadors arrived—beginning with Coronado in 1541 and ending with Juan de Onate in 1595.

Conflict and Competition with Santa Fe:
Agua Fria is a small village with an abundance of natural resources; its neighbor, Santa Fe, is a large city with an ever-increasing demand for those limited resources. It was inevitable that competition and conflict between these two communities would arise. Agua Fria has always fought to maintain control over its resources—and its independence from Santa Fe.

Local residents have successfully defended Agua Fria’s independence several times in the past 50 years. In 1960, a group of village residents, led by former Santa Fe County Planning Commissioner, Amarante Romero, attempted to incorporate the village. In 1971, Lee Romero and Rubel Gallegos made another attempt. When the City of Santa Fe proposed annexation...
in 1980, village residents, in conjunction with the County Club Gardens Mobile Home Park, filed a successful lawsuit arguing that the city was not in the financial position to provide services to the expanded boundaries.

With talk of another attempt at annexation in 1992, the village responded by creating the Agua Fria Village Association (AFVA), which boasted a strong paid membership—350 residents out of roughly 2,000 total. During a third incorporation effort in 1994-1995, the village found itself embroiled in an internal battle between residents who wanted to incorporate as an independent community and residents who desired annexation into the City of Santa Fe. The New Mexico State Legislature developed a compromise that ultimately resolved this issue. Using statute 3-7-1.1. NMSA 1978, the Santa Fe County Commission created the Agua Fria Village Traditional Historic Community (THC), heralded as a national model for a local government preservation ordinance.

Agua Fria Village Association:
Although Agua Fria had been “on the map” for hundreds of years, the community lacked a clear boundary. Official boundaries were established in 1993. Also that year, the Village developed plans for three major projects: 1) the preservation of The Royal Road from Mexico City (El Camino Real de Adentro); 2) the preservation of the Santa Fe River; and 3) traffic control on Agua Fria Street.

The Royal Road:
The Royal Road, a historic trading route dating back to 1541, runs along Agua Fria Street, the village’s main thoroughfare. The effort to have the Royal Road recognized as a historic trail began in the early 1990s by the New Mexico Historic Preservation Office. It was approved by Congress in 1998; the Royal Road is now administered by the National Park Service in conjunction with several federal, state, and local partners.

The Santa Fe River:
The ultimate aim of the Santa Fe River project, spearheaded by the Santa Fe Watershed Association, is to maintain a “living river” that will improve the quality of life of Agua Fria residents. The project removed an existing sand and gravel operation and reclaimed the riverbed as a more natural watercourse. This aided in the recharge of wells relying on groundwater. Evidence for the success of the project is the fact that the river is becoming a popular walking and recreational area.

Agua Fria Street:
The traffic control project on Agua Fria Street began with a petition to the New Mexico State Highway Department in 1993. As a result of the petition, endorsed by the Santa Fe County Commission, three four-way stop signs were installed on the main thoroughfare. The new stop signs greatly slowed traffic, a much-needed change in the village. Prior to their installation, several deaths occurred on the three hairpin curves running through town, and residents had installed their own makeshift guardrails in order to protect their homes.

The Acequia System:
The AFVA worked to extend and document the village’s acequia system. The Village of Agua Fria, actively seeking to expand the current system, created a formal Acequia Association. In addition, the community started collecting oral histories related to the acequia, stories that help preserve the unique traditions and culture of the community.

Conclusion:
Residents of the Village of Agua Fria are committed to maintaining their traditional way of life and protecting their independence from Santa Fe. This fierce commitment, coupled with passionate resistance, ensures that Agua Frians will continue to fight to preserve their village, a powerful place where history is not simply remembered, but lived.
The Village of Cimarron is one of the New Mexico communities that have made historic preservation a priority. Cimarron, located in Colfax County in northeastern New Mexico, is situated on the eastern side of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains on the western fringe of the Great Plains. The community continues to serve as a center for ranching activities, which have historically dominated the region, but tourism has steadily increased in importance to the local economy. The village contains many historic buildings reflecting an Old West character. Cimarron is also the jumping-off point for young Boy Scouts visiting the famous Philmont Scout Ranch. In recent years, Cimarron village officials and volunteers have undertaken several planning initiatives to improve the quality of their community.

The Santa Fe Trail and the Village of Cimarron: Mexican independence from Spain was declared on February 24, 1821, thus opening up the opportunity for trade between Mexico and the United States. In September of that year William Becknell, who later became known as “the father of the Santa Fe Trail,” started a trading expedition that left Franklin, Missouri and headed for Santa Fe, in what was then the Republic of Mexico. The expedition entered present-day New Mexico through the Raton Pass, which became known as the mountain branch of the Santa Fe Trail. After a very successful first trip, Becknell and 22 men loaded three prairie schooners for a second expedition the following year. Since the wagons could not cross the mountains, Becknell headed south, traveling across the prairie from the town of Cimarron in present-day Kansas and entering New Mexico just north of Clayton. This route later became known as the Cimarron Cutoff.

The Santa Fe Trail played a key role in the establishment of Cimarron, New Mexico. The Trail passed south of Willow Springs (present-day Raton on US 64) and through what would become the Village of Cimarron. Cimarron and the Philmont Ranch were
part of an 1841 land grant from the Mexican government. Lucien Maxwell, son-in-law of the grantee Carlos Beaubien, led the first settlers to the Philmont Ranch area in 1848. With help from Kit Carson, this Rayado River settlement prospered. In 1857, Maxwell moved his ranch to its current site on the Cimarron River.

Cimarron was officially chartered in 1861, named for the Spanish word used to describe a mustang, meaning “wild” and “unbroken.” In 1870, Maxwell sold his original ranch, later to become the Philmont Ranch, to the Maxwell Land Grant and Railroad Company. The Maxwell Grant and Railroad Company later sold the land to a Dutch company, which eventually sold the land in tracts for farms and ranches.

The Santa Fe Trail became the lifeline for protection and communication between Missouri and Santa Fe. Although the landscape along the Trail appeared empty of human presence, the land was the hunting ground of many Native American tribes, including the Comanche, Kiowa, southern bands of the Cheyenne and Arapaho, the Plains Apache, the Osage, Kansas (KAW), Jicarilla Apache, Ute, and Pueblo Indians. As the trail traffic increased, so did confrontations with Native Americans; military forts were built along the trail to protect travelers.

The 1880 arrival of the railroad into Santa Fe brought an end to commerce on the Santa Fe Trail. Cimarron continued to survive as a community, serving ranches in the region, including the 300,000-acre Philmont Ranch established in 1922 by Oklahoma oilman Waite Phillips. The Philmont Villa, a Mission-Spanish Revival manor designed by Edward Buehler Delk, was built in 1926 to oversee this cattle ranch. The ranch included Hereford cows and Corriedale sheep, as well as horse and hiking trails and cabins for hunting and fishing.

In 1938 Phillips donated 35,857 acres of his ranch to the Boy Scouts of America as the Philturn Rocky Mountain Scout Camp, national wilderness camping area. Three years later, in 1941, Phillips donated the Villa along with an additional 91,538 acres of land. The property, now totaling 127,395 acres, was renamed the Philmont Scout Ranch. In 1963, the Vice President of the National Council of the Boy
Scouts funded the purchase of another 10,098 acres of the original land grant, including the Baldy Mountain mining area. Today, the Boy Scouts retain ownership of property that totals approximately 214 square miles, with the Villa serving as a museum open to the public.

Historic Preservation:
As early as 1978, the Village of Cimarron Comprehensive Plan addressed historical preservation and land use planning. The plan described how the Cimarron Historic District could be promoted as a tourist attraction and recommended the adoption of a Historical Zoning Ordinance to encourage preservation of historic sites. The 1998 Cimarron Strategic Plan for Economic Development, produced by a community action team, included 12 goals. One of the goals related to historic preservation by highlighting local history to enhance tourist attractions such as the Historic District. In the 2004 Comprehensive Plan for Colfax County, one of the stated goals is to preserve the County’s heritage and social/cultural roots.

Cimarron Historic District:
The Cimarron Historic District, maintained through historic preservation and planning efforts, offers a glimpse into 19th-century New Mexico. The District, located south of US Highway 64 and on the east and west sides of NM 21, was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1973.

Important properties within the Cimarron Historic District include:
- Early trading post (location of Lucien Maxwell commissary)
- Aztec Grist Mill, now known as the Old Mill Museum, built for Lucien Maxwell (1864)
- Site of Lucien Maxwell’s home
- Tom Boggs’ home (~1865)
- Second Colfax County Courthouse (1870)
- Plaza well (1871)
- Colfax County Jail (1872)
- St James Hotel (1872)
- Office of the Cimarron News (1872)
- Immaculate Conception Catholic Church (1881-1884)
- The Adobe (prior to 1892)
- Schwenk Hall
- Juan Charette’s saloon

Image from ‘A Walking Tour of Old Town Cimarron, New Mexico in the 1800’s’ Gene Lamm and The Cimarron Historical Society

Photo by Eric Johnson
Conclusion:
Thanks to numerous preservation and planning efforts, the Cimarron Historic District is able to bring visitors back to the days of the Old West and the Santa Fe Trail. With historic preservation a top priority in local government planning, the village of Cimarron is committed to celebrating its unique past while building its exciting future as a major tourist destination in New Mexico.

References
Grant County

Cyclists descend hill during the '2009 Tour of the Gila,' an annual cycling stage race in Silver City, NM.

Cyclists round the corner in downtown Silver City during the '2010 Tour of the Gila.'

Famed American 'Tour de France' champion Lance Armstrong signs autographs at a time trial. The 'Tour of the Gila' attracts famous riders from all over the globe.

@ left: photo by Tom Frost

@ top right: photo by Robin L. Thomas

@ bottom right: photo by Robin L. Thomas

CYCLING THE GILA

Grant County

Cyclists descend hill during the '2009 Tour of the Gila,' an annual cycling stage race in Silver City, NM.
Spires rise up out of the desert landscape at Kasha-Katuwe Tent Rocks National Monument.
View of Wide Open Space from Petroglyph National Monument

photo by Lora Roberts

Bernalillo County
CLOUDS HOVER OVER ROY

Photos by Lora Roberts

Harding County
The City of Truth or Consequences (T or C) is located in southern New Mexico, along the Rio Grande between the state’s two largest reservoirs—Elephant Butte and Caballo. The area is home to approximately one dozen developed hot mineral spas and historic bathhouses. The hot springs of T or C have reputed health benefits, which attract both local visitors and national and international tourists, and are still regarded as sacred to the Warm Springs Apache and other Native American groups. The economy of T or C is heavily reliant upon tourism generated by these hot springs. Efforts to revitalize downtown T or C, which has undergone several decades of economic decline since the 1950s, have largely focused on maintaining and restoring the city’s historic bathhouses and reinvigorating other downtown businesses.

**The Healing Waters Trail:**
In 2007, a local group of T or C residents developed the concept for the Healing Waters Trail. The project blends the desires of several groups, each of which is working on different issues the trail will address, including: the creation of additional recreational opportunities along the Rio Grande; the enhancement of public health and exercise programs in the T or C community; the economic revitalization and preservation of the historic bathhouse district; and the conservation of local riparian areas, wetlands, and hot springs.

With the help of the National Park Service’s Rivers Trails and Conservation Assistance program, the Healing Waters Trail Steering Committee formed in the spring of 2008. Since that time, the committee has received support from the Sierra Soil and Water Conservation District, the National Park Service, and the City of T or C with holding design workshops and outreach events. The ultimate goal of these efforts is the creation of a Healing Waters Trail Development Plan, to secure funding and guide implementation.

The Healing Waters Trail Steering Committee aims to create a semi-urban trail system, the

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**Truth or Consequences:** figures from the 2000 U.S. Census

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<th>Total Population:</th>
<th>Median Household Income:</th>
<th>Average Household Size:</th>
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</table>
Healing Waters Trail: Proposed Route and Segments.

main loop of which will be approximately three miles in length, beginning in T or C’s Hot Springs Bathhouse and Commercial Historic District. Trail planning has focused on four proposed trail segments: 1) the Downtown Segment, which includes the Hot Springs Historic District; 2) the Rotary Park and Wetlands Segment; 3) the Carrie Tingley Mesa Segment, and 4) the South Broadway Segment.

**Hot Springs Cultural Landscape Assessment:**
The Healing Waters Trail seeks to showcase the unique community character of T or C. Reaching back through the history of the town originally known as Hot Springs, the trail will highlight and interpret T or C’s unique heritage, both built and natural.

The Hot Springs Bathhouse and Commercial Historic District was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2004, and at that time historians and local residents collected a wealth of information on the district. However, while this district comprises the focal point of the historic landscape, the protection and revitalization of downtown must also take into account the conservation of the natural geothermal resources upon which the town was built and continues to rely economically. From this vantage, it is important to consider the existing conditions of the district within the context of the cultural landscape. This approach requires an assessment of both the built and natural features of the landscape. It acknowledges the significance of human interaction over time with the natural resources of the Hot Springs Artesian Basin in creating the unique character of present-day T or C.

The Hot Springs cultural landscape assessment, prepared during the trail’s initial planning phase, provides a...
Interpretive Site Plan

Healing Waters Trail:
Rotary Park and the
adjacent wetlands.

images created by
Lisa Roach, 2008

trail aims to showcase the heritage resources
of the Hot Springs historic landscape as it continues to
evolve. It will educate residents
and visitors about T or C's unique
past, offer opportunities for both
heritage tourism and expressions
of community identity, and encourage revitalization of this
once vibrant place.

The cultural landscape assessment positions
downtown T or C as a historic vernacular
landscape, which the National Park Service
defines as: “a landscape that evolved
through use by the people whose activities or
occupancy shaped the landscape. Through
social or cultural attitudes of an individual,
family or community, the landscape reflects
the physical, biological, and cultural character
of those everyday lives.” The evolution of the
Hot Springs historic vernacular landscape
implies change through time, and preservation
of this landscape can be seen as a process of
managing that change. Rather than freezing
the downtown district in time or restoring it to
a particular historic period, the Healing Waters Trail aims to showcase the heritage resources
of the Hot Springs historic landscape as it continues to
evolve. It will educate residents
and visitors about T or C's unique
past, offer opportunities for both
heritage tourism and expressions
of community identity, and encourage revitalization of this
once vibrant place.

The assessment includes
three major components: 1) a
site history, which provides a
narrative summary and a detailed
timeline; 2) an analysis of
existing conditions of important
landscape features along the
route; and 3) a statement
of the historical significance
of the cultural landscape and
an evaluation of its integrity,
or the ability of the landscape
and its features to convey their
historical significance. These
three elements provide an
important context for defining
and communicating community
character through trail design
and interpretation.
Creating a Spirit of Place - Trail Design:
The Healing Waters Trail has enormous potential to provide a means of expressing local identity and historic significance. The Steering Committee recognized early on that the trail design must take advantage of this potential. The cultural landscape assessment provides a context for understanding local values, and community design workshops offer an opportunity for these values to be expressed in relation to specific trail design issues. Together, these planning tools supply a well of knowledge from which meaning can be drawn and integrated into the design of the Healing Waters Trail.

Designing the Downtown Segment:
The Downtown Segment is comprised of a network of urban pathways. While these pathways functionally serve to connect trail users with downtown shops, galleries, restaurants, bathhouses, inns, and other amenities, they experientially serve to communicate a sense of orientation, level of comfort and safety, points of interest, and an idea of community character and identity. All of these aspects form the streetscapes of downtown T or C and contribute to creating a sense of place along the Healing Waters Trail.

In order to begin to address trail design downtown, the Healing Waters Trail Steering Committee held a Walkability Workshop in September of 2008 with support from the city and NPS’s Rivers Trails and Conservation Assistance program. Based on the results of the workshop as well as the cultural landscape assessment, the following design goals for the Downtown Segment were formulated: 1) create awareness of the trail and promote trail use; 2) preserve character, create interest, and enhance aesthetic quality of the streetscape; 3) encourage and reinforce pedestrian activity downtown; 4) ensure accessibility for all trail users; 5) enhance pedestrian comfort; 6) install trees and plantings; and 7) improve crosswalk safety.

Designing the Rotary Park/Wetlands Segment:
The Rotary Park/Wetlands Segment is the shortest of the four segments of the Healing Waters Trail, but comprises natural resources that are among the most significant along the entire route. Rotary Park is located on the east bank of the Rio Grande in a bend in the river south of downtown. Aside from the park, the site also includes a wetlands area and a vacant bladed area on which the Bureau of Reclamation annually constructs a temporary dam across the river at the outlet of the wetlands. The wetlands are fed by the historic Hot Springs Ditch system, creating a unique habitat for fish, birds, turtles, and other wildlife, which attract birdwatchers and other wildlife enthusiasts. Local fishermen are also drawn to the outlet where the
wetlands discharge into the Rio Grande. To conserve this valuable resource, local residents have organized to clean up the wetlands, which have become overgrown with cattail and non-native salt cedar, threatening the survival of native species.

In order to generate ideas for expanding Rotary Park and restoring the adjacent wetlands, the Healing Waters Trail Steering Committee held a Wetlands Restoration Workshop in May of 2008. The suggestions that emerged during the workshop were incorporated into the Rotary Park concept plan, which includes the following design goals: 1) expand Rotary Park to conserve the wetland; 2) improve access for and reduce conflicts between pedestrians and vehicles; 3) enhance visitor comfort; 4) create an educational experience; 5) support multiple park and trail uses; 6) provide connectivity between trail segments; and 7) promote park cleanliness.

Heritage Interpretation along the Healing Waters Trail:
Heritage interpretation along the Healing Waters Trail will imbue the trail and the entire downtown area with special meaning and significance. Interpretative panels, exhibits, and public art will showcase and strengthen T or C’s unique community character while encouraging trail use and promoting economic and social activity downtown. Interpretive goals include the following: 1) convey a sense of place and time by forging connections between physical space, geographical setting, historical events and persons, and personal memories and stories; 2) promote a spirit of stewardship for the landscape’s cultural and natural resources; and 3) inform, educate, provoke, and inspire.

The general interpretive theme of the trail is “The Healing Waters Trail: Discover a Spirit of Healing.” As a way of organizing important stories to be told by interpretive media along the trail route, the overall theme can be divided into four sub-themes: 1) “Thermal Waters and Healing Powers, which includes stories of the various groups of people who visited the springs prior to the founding of the village; 2) “Health Capital of the Southwest,” which tells the stories associated with the establishment of bathhouses and inns and T or C’s growth as a health resort community; 3) “The Nature of the Rio Grande,” which focuses on the role of the river in T or C’s historic development and on the role of conservation in its future; and 4) “Remembering Our Veterans,” which tells a story of national healing and remembrance surrounding the transformation of the Carrie Tingley Hospital into the State Veterans Home and Veterans Memorial Park.

Conclusion:
The Healing Waters Trail is an exciting amenity for T or C. The trail will highlight the unique history and character of T or C, showcase expressions of local identity, promote stewardship of cultural and natural resources, and attract local residents and tourists alike to an invigorated downtown district. A cultural landscapes approach was valuable in trail planning efforts due to the unique relationship between people and the natural geothermal resources on which the town was built.

References
The Village of Lincoln, located on US 380 in Lincoln County, New Mexico, is a popular tourist destination because of its Old West appearance and one of its more renown citizens, Billy the Kid. Thanks to the careful work of Lincoln’s citizens along with state and federal assistance, many of the original 19th century buildings have been maintained, preserving the village’s Old West appearance and creating a major tourist attraction known around the world.

Lincoln County is predominantly rural with a mixture of private, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and Lincoln National Forest lands. Irrigated pastures and orchards are cultivated in the valleys along the Rio Bonito that flows to the north of the village of Lincoln, a small, unincorporated community. Much of the land surrounding the village was acquired by BLM in recent years. Lincoln contains a mixture of private residences and buildings owned and maintained by the Lincoln State Monument. Commercial establishments are limited to a restaurant and a bed and breakfast. Most of the buildings along US 380 are wood or adobe construction and date from the 19th century, reflecting the Old West era. Ongoing preservation efforts by property owners and New Mexico State Monuments Division keep these buildings in good condition. Visitors can stroll down the main street, now US 380, and imagine 19th-century New Mexico life.

**History of Lincoln:**
Lincoln was a traditional agricultural community established shortly after the acquisition of New Mexico by the United States at the end of the Mexican-American War (1846-1848). Spanish-speaking farmers settled in the Rio Bonito valley soon after the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo (1848). By the following year, approximately 60 residents lived in the village of La Placita del Rio Bonito (also called La Placita or Bonito), a cluster of adobe buildings grouped around a plaza and walled tower, known as a torreon. During an Apache attack on the community, the village’s residents would take refuge in the torreon where men would fire at the attackers through the torreon’s gunslits while...
The Torreon, a tower made of rock used by the village residents to defend themselves from attack, has stood since the 19th century. Photo courtesy of Eric Johnson

During the late 1860s and 1870s, ranchers moved into the area and many of the buildings along the main street were constructed. In the late 1870s the Lincoln County Wars took place when rival groups battled for money and power within the county; Lincoln’s main street was the site of many gunfights. Characters such as William Bonney (Billy the Kid), John Henry Tunstall, Alexander McSween, James Dolan, and John Chisum were involved in the gunfights and business deals for control of land, livestock, and commerce. In 1881, Pat Garrett was appointed Lincoln County Sheriff to instill law and order in the village. While under Sheriff Garrett’s watch, Billy the Kid was captured and brought to Lincoln for hanging but he managed to escape jail and headed north. Sheriff Garrett caught up with Billy the Kid in Fort Sumner, New Mexico, and killed him on July 14, 1881.

Events quieted down in Lincoln during the 1880s and the village continued to grow. As of 1885, the village had eight merchants, two lawyers, a blacksmith, a tailor, and a regional newspaper to serve area ranchers. In 1909, the Lincoln County seat moved from Lincoln to Carrizozo, thus beginning the gradual shift of economic activity away from Lincoln. As the years passed, the village of Lincoln was rediscovered and recognized for its importance as a well-preserved Old West community. Walter Noble Burns’ 1926 book, The Saga of Billy the Kid, brought attention to Lincoln’s value as a record of the rapidly disappearing Old West. Buildings continued to be used and lived in during the first half of the 20th century, and a Pueblo Revival-style adobe school was built with Work Progress Administration (WPA) funds in 1938. After World War II, the community became a tourist destination, and the number of tourists has increased steadily into the 21st century.

**Protection at the Local, State, and Federal Level:**
Lincoln has several levels of official protection for its historic buildings as well as its natural environment. At the local level, the Lincoln County government has established historic zones within the Rio Bonito Valley that provide development regulations for Lincoln properties. The county’s ordinance contains specific standards regarding the construction and modification of buildings in order to retain the historic integrity of the village. At the state level, many buildings are protected as part of the Lincoln State Monument, which receives more visitors than any other monument in the state. The Monument actively maintains the buildings in their original condition and also provides visitor interpretation services to the many tourists visiting Lincoln. At the federal level, Lincoln is a National Historic Landmark with protections implemented by the National Park Service. In addition, many Lincoln buildings are listed on the National Register of Historic Properties. Lands surrounding the community are managed by the Bureau of Land Management, which has worked to protect the natural environment and has begun

Historic Preservation . Collaboration . Restoration
developing plans for a multi-use trail to connect Lincoln with Fort Stanton. These various levels of protection—local, state, and federal—help Lincoln maintain its original historic character while avoiding the overly commercial appearance of some tourist destination communities.

Since the late 1990s, the New Mexico Department of Transportation (NMDOT) has worked on plans to improve US 380, the main street through Lincoln along which most of the village’s historic buildings are located. In many public meetings, Lincoln residents emphasized the importance of respecting Lincoln’s historic character and developing transportation improvements that fit within the historical context. In cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration, New Mexico State Monuments, New Mexico Historic Preservation Division, Bureau of Land Management, and National Park Service, NMDOT prepared a cultural landscape study that identified 218 character-defining landscape features. These features are organized by historic period: Early Territorial (1850-1869), Late Territorial (1870-1912), Early Statehood (1913-1931), New Deal (1932-1941), and Tourism Period (1940-1960). Based on the cultural landscape study, NMDOT prepared design and maintenance guidelines for US 380 through Lincoln. The guidelines address land use, circulation networks, vegetation, buildings and structures, views and vistas, archaeological sites, and small-scale elements. In order to limit visual impacts, the guidelines propose techniques such as using rustic earth-colored pavement, minimizing use of retaining walls, and, when walls are needed, using smaller walls with natural colors, and minimizing signage through small and centralized signs at entry areas at each end of the village.

**Conclusion:**
Much of the success of Lincoln is due to the active role taken by its residents, who are involved in public events and work diligently to ensure that federal, state, and county governments recognize Lincoln’s historic characteristics and significance. Thanks to the efforts of these residents and the coordination with various government agencies, the village of Lincoln continues to thrive as a distinctive Old West community that provides visitors a treasured glimpse into the past.

**REFERENCES**

n 2008, Leslie Kryder, a student in the Water Resources Program at the University of New Mexico (UNM), conducted historical and field research to document three acequias in Mora County, New Mexico. The purpose of the project was to assemble materials that can be used to define the acequias’ water rights in anticipation of future water right adjudication and administration. Ivan Roper of the Canoncito Acequia and Johnny Bonney of the Encinal Acequia led a tour with Harold Trujillo of the New Mexico Acequia Association, Leslie Kryder, and Alicia Paz, a recent graduate of the Water Resources Program. The team photographed various water sources and GPS points, documenting the upper reaches of the acequia system. An acequia is a community irrigation ditch. Typically, an acequia diverts water from a point upstream on a local river and transports it along the uphill side of fields. Water is released from the acequia onto the fields and any extra water returns to the river. Historically, one of the first tasks of any new settlement in the semi-arid Southwest was to build an acequia to secure water for agriculture. Community members worked together to build the acequia and they shared the water it provides. Many acequias in New Mexico have been in use since before the U.S. acquired land from Mexico in 1848 and continue to operate to this day.

The Trans-Basin Acequias:
There are three trans-basin acequias in Mora County, in northern New Mexico. They are unusual in that they divert water across watershed boundaries, bringing water from the Rio Grande basin to the Canadian River basin. Nineteenth-century Hispanic settlers in the Mora Valley built the acequias to augment the water supply of the Mora River. The oldest trans-basin acequia is the Canoncito-Encinal. Several springs contribute water to this acequia as it makes its way down the mountain, but the principal source of water is Alamitos Creek, a tributary of the Rio Pueblo, which flows into...
from a lack of water. Documentation from the late nineteenth century indicates that the original settlers, some of whom came from Picuris Pueblo, obtained permission from the Pueblo to use this water which would otherwise have flowed down the Rio Pueblo to Picuris.

As settlement of the Mora Valley increased, so did the need for water. Two other acequias were later built to divert water from other Rio Pueblo tributaries to the Mora Valley. The second acequia, known as the Acequia del Rito Griego y la Sierra, was built in the 1860s and supplies water to farms near Chacon. It diverts water from several springs as well as the Rito la Presa, another tributary of the Rio Pueblo. The third and longest trans-basin acequia, Acequia de la Sierra de Holman, was built beginning about 1879. It obtains water from the Rito Angosta, a tributary of the Rio Pueblo.

The acequia members and UNM Water Resources students documented the course of the Canoncito-Encinal Acequia and its relationship to the Acequia de la Sierra de Holman. The Acequia de la Sierra de Holman begins further west where it diverts water from the Rito Angosta. Approximately 100 yards downstream of the Canoncito-Encinal diversion, the Acequia de la Sierra de Holman delivers water to Alamitos Creek and then re-diverts the water eastward. The two acequias run in parallel, some yards apart, for perhaps a mile, before Acequia de
Ivan Roper at the Encinal Gate.

Canoncito-Encinal acequia diversion at Alamitos Creek.

Harold and Lucille Trujillo where the Acequia del Rito Griego y la Sierra drops into the Mora Valley.

*Photos by Leslie R. Kryder*

La Sierra de Holman drops into Vigil Canyon above Holman. When the water reaches the Mora Valley, it is divided between the Canoncito Acequia and the Encinal Acequia.

**Acequia Water Rights Documentation:**

The history of the three trans-basin acequias is related because they each derive a significant portion of their water from tributaries of the Rio Pueblo. All three acequias were referenced in a lawsuit brought by Picuris Pueblo in 1882 against the building of the Acequia de la Sierra de Holman. This was the third acequia to divert water from a tributary of the Rio Pueblo and the Pueblo was concerned that there would not be enough water reaching the Pueblo. In 1885, the lawsuit was dismissed, apparently because the Pueblo did not pursue the matter. Had an informal agreement been reached between the Pueblo and the builders of the Acequia de la Sierra de Holman? The record does not say. However, the lawsuit is important because it documents approximate dates of construction of the three acequias.

Full documentation of water rights entails six characteristics. In addition to the priority date, which is based on the time water was first used, and the point of diversion, a water right stipulates the quantity of water diverted and consumed by each member of the acequia, the purpose of use, and the place of use, including the exact number of acres irrigated. Given the short timeframe involved, the focus of this project was on establishing priority dates and points of diversion.

*More Info*

For more information, refer to “The Trans-Basin Acequias of the Mora Valley, New Mexico” by Leslie Kryder at [http://econtent.unm.edu/u/?/NMWaters,3717](http://econtent.unm.edu/u/?/NMWaters,3717). Recommendations for further research are included in one of the appendices.
SINGING AND DANCING AT A MESILLA FIESTA

Mesilla ("Little Tableland") is the best-known and most visited historic community in Southern New Mexico. Founded around 1848, Mesilla greatly influenced the economic, cultural, historical, and political life of the Mesilla Valley. From the Gadsden Purchase to the Civil War to the Butterfield Stage Coach Trail to the trial of Billy the Kid, Mesilla played a prominent role in the rich history of the Southwest.

On September 10, 1957, Mesilla Plaza was declared a New Mexico state monument due to its significant role in the state’s history as well as the history of the United States. In January 1982, the Plaza was listed on the National Register as a National Historic landmark and Mesilla’s Historic District was added in February 1985. Today, quaint gift shops, galleries, and world-renowned dining and drinking establishments occupy the historic buildings of the Plaza which is also home to many cultural and historical activities, including the Cinco de Mayo and 16th de Septiembre Fiesta celebrations.

Source: http://www.oldmesilla.org/
Snow dusted cliffs frame the La Ventana Natural Arch in the El Malpais Natural Conservation Area.
CUBA BILLBOARD

photo by
Dr. Richard Kozoll

CUBA....
Natural-ly Wonder-ful!

Sandoval County
The village of Cuba, New Mexico (population 800) serves as the commercial center for a considerably larger, diverse rural population in Sandoval County. About 8,800 people live within a 35-mile radius of the village of Cuba (including three Navajo Chapters) and approximately 1,700 live within a five-mile radius. According to U.S. Census data, the median household income for Cuba residents was $21,538 in 2000 with 41% of the population living below the poverty level.

In regard to health concerns, a significant percentage of the Cuba population is overweight, and rates of diabetes, metabolic syndrome, lipid disorders, and cardiovascular disease are very high due in part to poor diet and lack of physical activity.

**Need for a More Walkable Cuba:**
Residents from within the municipality and the outlying areas visit Cuba regularly to pick up mail from the post office (there is no mail delivery service), shop for food and other necessities, receive medical care, and obtain social services. The village health clinic, post office, and other essential services are located on U.S. Highway 550, a busy four-lane divided highway under the jurisdiction of District 5 of the New Mexico Department of Transportation (NMDOT) that bisects the village and serves as Cuba's main street. US 550 is the primary route connecting Albuquerque and northwestern New Mexico to Colorado. Many residents of Cuba live within walking distance of the commercial center and St. Francis of Assisi Park, site of Cuba's centrally located recreation center.

Outside the highway commercial zone, the village maintains a rural character with low-density housing, open fields, and stretches of pinon-juniper woodland. The central village area is surrounded by extensive scenic forested lands including high mesas and Jemez Mountain foothills. Like other rural municipalities in New Mexico, Cuba residents have limited transportation options, long travel distances, and few recreational facilities. In 2006, US 550 had a mid-town traffic count of 9,800 vehicles per day. Most roadways used by residents to reach
services and businesses on 550 do not have sidewalks or walkways and Cuba's children do not have safe routes for walking to school. Additionally, intersections along US 550 do not have traffic lights, stop signs, or crosswalks and the sidewalks are not continuous. In winter, snow removal from this highway results in deep snow piles on sidewalks and highway shoulders, completely obstructing pedestrian access. There is a ten-year development plan for the Sandoval County Fairgrounds (located close to 550) but the plan does not include pedestrian connections between 550 and the grounds. Walkways connecting the St. Francis of Assisi Park and Sandoval County Fairgrounds to nearby hiking trails, including the Continental Divide trail, would promote walking and hiking for recreation and tourism. The Continental Divide National Scenic Trail terminates northwest and southeast of Cuba, leaving no connecting greenway to the village.

Although Cuba is surrounded by a beautiful natural environment for walking and hiking, it is a car-oriented community that is not considered pedestrian friendly. Inadequate access to safe and attractive pedestrian routes for daily activities and exercise, as well as a lack of recreational walking and hiking options, are big challenges to community livability. Despite these unsafe conditions, the 2000 Census reports that 10.6% of Cuba residents walk to work, thus emphasizing the need for a more pedestrian-friendly community.

Community-Initiated Transformation:
Although the community faces significant challenges, many opportunities exist in Cuba for improving the physical environment. One of Cuba’s greatest assets is the Nacimiento Medical Foundation Alliance. The Nacimiento Medical Foundation (NMF) is a local community-based non-profit, serving the Cuba community with public and school health, nutrition, and client assistance services since 1988. In 2006, the NMF formed an alliance comprised of individual and organizational representatives to spearhead a community-wide intervention called Step Into Cuba. The goals of this program are to use the area’s natural terrain to create walkways and trails, connect Cuba to the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail, encourage and engage individuals and organizations in a shared goal of regular physical activity, and develop a trailhead and nature trail at Cuba’s St. Francis of Assisi Park (go to http://www.stepintocuba.com for more information). Dr. Richard Kozoll, a semi-retired family and public health physician who has lived and practiced in Cuba for 35 years, leads the NMF Alliance and the Step Into Cuba initiative.

Successes:
The Alliance meets quarterly, with sub-groups meeting more frequently, to work towards its ambitious goals. Its long list of active participants and partner agencies include the village of Cuba, the Cuba Independent School District, Presbyterian Medical Services, Sandoval County, the University of New Mexico Prevention Research Center, the U.S. National Park Service, the U.S. Bureau
of Land Management (BLM), the U.S. Forest Service, the Cuba Soil and Water Conservation District, the Cuba Regional Economic Development Organization, the Nacimiento Heritage Team, and the Continental Divide Trail Alliance.

Last year the Alliance successfully acquired funds and in-kind donations totaling approximately $60,000 for Step Into Cuba from a number of sources including the New Mexico Department of Health (NMDOH), the American Hiking Society/Nature Valley, the Cuba Soil and Water Conservation District, the village of Cuba, the New Mexico Medical Society, Kodak American Greenways, and Sandoval County. Funded by NMDOH, a full-time healthy communities coordinator offers support for walking groups of varied skill levels. Also, in close collaboration with the village of Cuba, the Nacimiento Medical Foundation developed a walking path at St. Francis of Assisi Park as the site of a future nature trail. Alliance partners planted hundreds of conservation seedlings and native wildflowers, transplanted dozens of trees, and moved boulders along the path. The Continental Divide Trail Alliance installed a large two-sided kiosk with an enclosed display case near the walking path to mark the future trailhead and communicate Step Into Cuba routes and events to the community and visitors. Natural child play areas of boulders and a sand dune were also developed along the future nature trail.

Over 40 miles of a loop trail route—primarily on U.S. Forest and BLM land—are mapped. Local walkways connecting future trailheads on the loop to important public places in the village of Cuba are identified for future development. Two new walking paths, one at the local library and the other at the local clinic, are now constructed. Two new crosswalks on U.S. 550 and five pedestrian enhancement projects have been implemented or proposed by the Alliance in collaboration with the Mid-Region Council of Governments and NMDOH.

Step Into Cuba and the University of New Mexico Prevention Research Center:
Step Into Cuba leadership quickly identified the need for their initiative to be documented, evaluated, and shared with other rural communities hoping to become more walkable. The Alliance approached the University of New Mexico Prevention Research Center (UNM PRC), an agency that conducts community-based assessment, program planning and evaluation research to provide evaluation assistance. As Step Into Cuba’s goals align closely with the mission and values of the UNM PRC, the agency chose Step Into Cuba as its core research project for the next five years. The PRC is providing the initiative with technical assistance, education, training, assessment, and evaluation.
Step Into Cuba and the Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program:
Additionally, the National Park Service Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) Program selected Step Into Cuba through a competitive application process to receive technical assistance. The RTCA Program is assisting Step Into Cuba with developing a public input process for the walkability initiatives and is also helping local partners develop complementary activities such as a Youth Corps to support trail-related projects.

Future Projects and Goals:
The U.S. Forest Service and BLM have prioritized a portion of the future trail loop for a new Continental Divide trail segment that will bring the trail within a short walk from Cuba. The community and county appear to support this project and are mobilized to pursue future resources needed, including the development of a trailhead at the Sandoval County Fairgrounds.

According to Dr. Kozoll, “Step Into Cuba has come a long way in its efforts to transform the way people move around the community. Creating a healthy pedestrian community that is connected to its amazing natural environment now seems like an attainable goal.”

Step Into Cuba-UNM PRC collaborative projects accomplished over the past year include:
• Development of the Step Into Cuba Website (http://www.stepintocuba.com).
• A Cuba Trails, Park and Walkability Workshop organized in partnership with the Outdoor Recreation Planner from the National Parks Service Rivers Trails and Conservation Assistance program held in May 2009. The workshop brought 45 community members and state and local officials together to assess the walkability and access to safe activity within various locations in the village. The workshop solicited community input and recruited community members to join work groups to plan improvements to Highway 550, village sidewalks and walkways, and to St. Francis of Assisi Park. A final report documenting the workshop process and outcomes will guide future steps in the community.
• The award of a Robert Wood Johnson Healthy Kids, Healthy Communities four-year childhood obesity prevention grant. Upcoming projects focus in part on increasing access to healthy food, which nicely complements the Alliance’s efforts to promote physical activity. Grant-funded activities include planning a farmers market, expanding the community garden to incorporate youth, implementing Safe Routes to School projects, and increasing access to safe places for youth to play within Cuba and the neighboring Navajo Chapters.
• Conducting a Health Impact Assessment (HIA) of Highway 550 to measure the impacts of traffic calming on community health, safety, and economic development. Step Into Cuba will use the HIA as an educational and advocacy tool to make the highway more walkable.”

Collaborative projects with RTCA staff and networks include:
• Assistance from the New Mexico Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects with the Walkability Workshop in May 2009.
• Organization of a community visioning workshop for improvements to St. Francis of Assisi Park, facilitated by Alliance members and UNM graduate students in architecture.
• Development of a new plan for St. Francis of Assisi Park.
• Facilitation of a trail surface demonstration project at the Park and application for assistance from the New Mexico Recreational Trails Fund to provide an all-weather surface for the Park trail.
Angel Fire is a community of less than 1,000 people in the southwest corner of Colfax County, New Mexico. The Village of Angel Fire, although a relatively new community, is committed not only to planning but to implementing those plans. The community’s first comprehensive plan was completed in 1987, one year after the Village was incorporated, and it was updated in 1997, 2003, and again in 2008. All of the projects mentioned in this article originated in one of these plans.

Origin as a Destination Resort:
Angel Fire was conceived as a destination resort in the Moreno Valley.

While operating as a for-profit business, the Angel Fire Resort also attempted to function as a municipality by operating its own water and wastewater systems, maintaining a security department, and contracting all other services to private providers. However, because it was not an incorporated municipality, the Resort could not acquire low-cost loans, legislative appropriations, and other state and federal grants. The financial situation worsened with time and by the late 1980s, the Resort declared bankruptcy.

At the time of the Resort’s bankruptcy, the Village of Angel Fire, which...
incorporated in 1986, comprised a total of 80 acres. In the early 1990s, the Village of Angel Fire and the resort entered into an annexation agreement and an infrastructure transfer agreement. By 1997, the Village’s incorporated area had increased to 18,450 acres (nearly 29 square miles). Since 1999, the Village has planned and constructed a new wastewater treatment plant, community center, solid waste transfer facility, and public works maintenance facility.

Challenges to Economic Growth and Diversification:
Growing and diversifying the local economy is challenging for a variety of reasons pertaining to Angel Fire’s infrastructure and climate. Four highways lead into the Moreno Valley, all of which are two-lane mountain roads; the only route for wide loads is NM 38 from Red River over Bobcat Pass (9820’). While there is an airport, there is no railroad access into the Valley and no natural gas pipeline. The construction season is only seven to eight months long and water lines have to be buried six feet deep because of the cold winters.

These same challenges, however, have also resulted in a more pristine environment, which the local population values and wants to preserve. To this end, the Village adopted a Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) in order to restore forest health; the community continues to make great strides in implementing this plan.

Current Projects:
Public Improvement District: In 2008, the Village approved the creation of a Public Improvement District to bring infrastructure to 850 underdeveloped lots scattered in 10 different areas. This district is unique in New Mexico in that it required a supermajority (75%) of the property owners represented in the district to vote in favor of the formation. This $24 million project will add 17 miles of new roads and utilities to Angel Fire.

Plaza del Sol: Prior to declaring bankruptcy, the Resort operated a wastewater treatment plant that was out of compliance with regulations of the Environmental Protection Agency and the New Mexico Environment Department. After constructing a new treatment plant further north within the Village, the old plant was razed and the lagoons reclaimed. This land will be the site of the new Plaza del Sol, which will provide a gathering place for community events and festivals. This traditional New Mexican plaza will be surrounded by a public
safety building, a Village hall, a multi-purpose center, and private sector retail spaces. All of the underground utilities are in place and the surface paving is scheduled for 2011.

Sendero del Sol: There is currently no network connecting the several greenbelt trails throughout the area. To provide connectivity between the trails, the Village has taken on the task of building an arterial trail, Sendero del Sol, that will eventually connect all of the greenbelts together along with some smaller segments. Additionally there is an agreement with the New Mexico Department of Transportation, Colfax County, New Mexico State Parks, and the Village of Eagle Nest to extend Sendero del Sol through the Moreno Valley north to the Vietnam Memorial, Eagle Nest Lake, and the Village of Eagle Nest. Two segments—from Angel Fire to the Memorial and from Eagle Nest to the Eagle Nest Lake Visitor’s Center—are currently planned, but are on hold pending funding.

High-Altitude Training Facility: In 2007, the Resort gave the Village of Angel Fire 60 acres on the valley floor for the construction of a high-altitude training facility and contributed an additional seven acres in 2010. All of the site-planning is complete, with the first phase slated for construction soon. While a modest beginning with two soccer fields and two softball fields, it will start to generate income immediately through use by local leagues. In addition, universities in Texas and Oklahoma have expressed interest in using the facility for training athletic teams.

Environmental Initiatives: As part of the Village’s environmental commitment, the recycling program will be expanded to include glass by 2012. In addition, the Village is designing a water re-use line to water the golf course in the summer and to create snow for the ski runs in the winter.

Conclusion:
The Village of Angel Fire is a successful example of how planning can transform a struggling destination resort into a livable community. Despite economic challenges, the Village remains committed to community planning and continuously strives to implement adopted projects.

More Info
For more information on the Village of Angel Fire, please visit www.afgov.com.
Las Vegas
Cinder Road Bicycle & Pedestrian Trail

BY HAROLD MARK GARCIA

Phase One - The Gallinas River Trail:
The City of Las Vegas, located in San Miguel County, initiated the first phase of its bicycle and pedestrian trail in the early 1990s. The County originally intended for the trail to run through the city center and extend approximately five miles along an old railroad bed to the community of Montezuma, home of the Armand Hammer United World College of the American West; however, the city focused on the segment through the city center due to funding and property ownership issues.

Phase Two - The Cinder Road Trail:
Recently, thanks to the efforts of County staff and local citizens, San Miguel County began planning the second phase of the trail to promote a healthy lifestyle, an alternative means of transportation, and enhancement of the area surrounding Las Vegas. The second phase will continue the existing Gallinas River Trail, extending it approximately two miles north along Cinder Road where it will link to NM State Road 65. The project is a collaborative effort between the county, the city of Las Vegas, Las Vegas City Schools, the New Mexico Department of Transportation (NMDOT), and local residents and civic groups.

Project Funding:
The funds required for this project total more than $1.5 million. San Miguel County received $440,000 from the NMDOT Federal Enhancement Funds and identified 150,000 in matching funds. In addition, the County recently received American Recovery Reinvestment Funds in the amount of $937,000 for this project.

Safe Routes to Schools:
The County is also working with the NMDOT Safe Routes to Schools (SRTS) Program to develop a plan linking the Cinder Road Trail with two Las Vegas schools, Memorial Middle and Legion Elementary. Once the plan is finalized, San Miguel County will coordinate with the City of Las Vegas to develop sidewalks and other street improvements linking the schools to the Cinder Road Trail.

Conclusion:
The Cinder Road Trail project has been a collaborative four-year effort, including the involvement of local health practitioners, schools, area residents, city and county staff and elected officials, and NMDOT. It is a good example of how a community can successfully work together to positively impact the quality of life of its residents.

City of Las Vegas: figures from the 2000 U.S. Census

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Population:</th>
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One of the longest continuously cultivated landscapes in the United States is found in the Rio Grande Basin of Bernalillo County, New Mexico. Prior to the arrival of the Spanish in the late 1500s, the lowlands along the Rio Grande were farmed by Pueblo residents. Spanish settlers took advantage of the fertile soils and water available for irrigation and developed farms near the river.

Although agriculture remains active in the Basin, agricultural land throughout the nation is dwindling at an alarming rate. Level farm fields are viewed as attractive home sites and, when sold for development, often generate more profit than farming. Farmland conversion to non-farm uses is at a national average of one million acres per year or 2,700 acres per day. Between 1997 and 2002, the United States had a net decrease of 16,437,466 farmland acres; Bernalillo County alone lost 3,117 acres of harvested cropland. Farmland loss has a negative impact on the availability of fresh, nutritious food; on overall physical health; and on the environment, especially in terms of land, water, and biodiversity.

Local Food Systems:
City populations create an overwhelming demand for consumption of land, food, and resources, yet alternate ways of organizing food systems do exist. One avenue of change is a revitalization of local food systems that encompass production, distribution, marketing, and consumption. Combining the environmental, social, and economic benefits of urban agriculture would allow for a holistic and sustainable approach to providing healthy food sources and protecting farmlands. FoodPrint New Mexico and Los Poblanos Open Space Fields are two enterprises assisting in the creation of a strong local food system in the Albuquerque area, the state’s largest municipality.

FoodPrint New Mexico:
As an alliance between key players in farm conservation, FoodPrint New Mexico created a unique opportunity to strengthen the security of the state’s food enterprises. It has the ability to disseminate information, build distribution infrastructure, and inform policy on food system planning.
Los Poblanos Open Space Fields:
In 1995, thanks to a temporary quarter-cent tax, the city of Albuquerque’s Open Space Division purchased Los Poblanos Open Space Fields (LPF), a farm located east of the Rio Grande in a residential area of Albuquerque. A portion of LPF is located in the village of Los Ranchos de Albuquerque, which the Open Space Division administers through an inter-governmental agreement. The Open Space Division leases the 138-acre LPF to local farmers for planting alfalfa; Rio Grande Community Farms for cultivating sunflowers and food crops; and Dan Schuster of Fairfield Farms for growing flowers and food crops. Each lease includes a clause requiring that 25% of the allotment be planted with a crop that benefits and attracts wildlife.

In addition, LPF encourages organic farming practices. Los Poblanos Open Space Fields provides a model for slowing the destruction of farmland, contributing to biodiversity, promoting health, and invigorating the local agriculture economy.

Environmental Benefits:
Air: Growing food locally reduces transportation costs as well as carbon dioxide emissions. Since the food does not have to travel as far to reach the consumer, the carbon footprint (the amount of carbon dioxide generated by transporting that food item) is smaller. Since no-till farming prevents the release of soil carbon into the atmosphere, it helps reduce greenhouse gas emissions. LPF also improves air quality since, as a large cultivated area within the city, it essentially provides a cooling effect on an “urban heat island.”

Water: Organic farming also improves the water cycle in the arid region. Since organic farming uses no chemicals, fewer pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers make it into the waterway. Furthermore, crops allow storm water to infiltrate into the soil and recharge the subsurface aquatic systems. In addition, Rio Grande Community Farms is currently exploring water conservation techniques by installing a drip irrigation system on sixteen of their allotted acres.

Soil: Cultivation improves soil health by keeping soils in place and decreasing erosion. Crop rotation and winter cover crops, employed throughout LPF, allow the soil to rest and rejuvenate. To further enhance soil fertility, Rio Grande Community Farms plants crops that naturally enhance the soil. Organic food production helps retain precious topsoil, replenish nutrients, and encourage biodiversity.
Biodiversity: Biodiversity is an important environmental benefit provided by Rio Grande Community Farms’ vegetable production. Mono-crops, common in large industrial farming, are detrimental to soil, air, and water. In contrast, a diversity of crop types, animals, and microbes that accompany organic farming help keep the soil nutrient rich and resilient to pests. Organic farming, as employed by Rio Grande Community Farms, provides access to a variety of foods and enables natural enhancement of the soil through plant nutrients and wildlife.

Habitat: Wildlife is another important environmental benefit of urban farming. LPF is unique in that a quarter of the allotted crop acreage has to be devoted to wildlife crops. Some of the approved wildlife crops are sorghum, millet, milo, Mexican corn, and sunflowers. During the past decade, the wildlife populations have increased exponentially at LPF as the field perimeters provide a wonderful nesting ground and wildlife thrive as food is consistently available. The LPF Outreach and Education Coordinator has started a bird count walk and the Open Space Division will install signage listing the wildlife and bird populations. LPF contributes to the mosaic of habitat available and creates connectivity to the Rio Grande bosque and the migratory flyway.

Social Benefits:
Reconnection to the Land: Urban farming offer ways for city dwellers to experience the relationship between humans and nature. Open space combined with agriculture provides awareness of earth’s natural processes. Since LPF is publicly cultivated open space, it is a place where city dwellers and visitors can spend time in nature. Roads double as trails in which visitors see a plethora of wildlife in the heart of the city. LPF reminds individuals—visiting for recreation, gardening, or annual events—of seasonality and the production cycle of local fresh food.

Sense of Place: Since this particular plot of land has been cultivated for over 500 years, it provides a sense of history, of place, and of tradition. The tie to history is more powerful than just land use—it incorporates a sacred relationship with the land. LPF creates a connection to Albuquerque’s agricultural heritage, providing opportunities for seed saving and food sovereignty.

Recreation and Health: Recreational opportunities at LPF come in many forms, including walking, horseback riding, bike riding, and dog walking. These opportunities for physical activity help people become healthier and may help reduce the occurrence of diabetes and obesity. Gardening is also a strenuous activity and enables the intake of fresh air and nutritious food.

Relaxation: LPF provides a relaxing oasis where residents or visitors can go to escape urbanity. There is value in expansive, undeveloped views. This green space provides a different kind...
of relief from the hustle of city life, an escape that is very different from the well-manicured municipal parks. Viewsheds are preserved and visitors can relax in a serene place in which they can interact with the natural cycles of life.

Social Interaction: Community building is an important element of Rio Grande Community Farms, which devotes a portion of its LPF acreage to a community garden where individuals, families, groups, or organizations can become members. People have always come together around food, and bountiful harvests have always been a time for community, family, and celebration. LPF is a space where people of all ages come together to share interests, trade information, build friendships, and network around gardening and food production. It is a gathering place where gardeners and visitors can interact not only with friends or family, but also with people they may not encounter elsewhere. People also gather at LPF for annual events such as the Maize Maze, Day of Service, and a seed-saving festival. Each of these annual events provides the community with a way to reconnect with the land and learn about urban farming.

Education: Education is one of the core missions of the Rio Grande Community Farms and programs are offered to learners of all ages. Service-learning programs are provided to many area schools, including Amy Biel High School and Cottonwood Middle School. In addition, Alvarado Elementary School has a permanent wildlife garden adjacent to the community garden with informative signage, shaded public benches, and a picnic area. Rio Grande Community Farms is also creating educational modules to provide information on wildlife, farming, and gardening. Field trips to the farm are encouraged and staff conduct site consultations for schools.
Food Security: LPF enhances food security by providing a space where fresh nutritious produce is grown, distributed, and consumed locally. Increased fuel prices have resulted in higher transportation costs and therefore higher food costs, and developing countries face an economic crisis regarding access to food. Access to locally grown food is a matter of national security and global stability.

Economic Benefits:
Food Sales and Local Currency: Rio Grande Community Farms sells food to Albuquerque Public Schools, local restaurants, grocery stores, and at farmers markets. Food that is grown, sold, and consumed locally helps the economic base of any urban environment in multiple ways. It keeps currency circulating locally and it also has a multiplier effect, with the potential to generate new industries in the area. More urban farms would result in a greater need for other businesses that support farming, such as greenhouse building supplies, organic soil, and seed banks. There is room for expansion in harvesting, storage, distribution, and sales. In addition, money spent locally is subject to gross receipts tax and creates more revenue for local governments.

Personal Food Production: People who cultivate plots in the community garden and grow their own food receive many personal economic benefits. They spend less on produce and are also able to barter their surplus. In addition, consuming their own fresh, nutritious produce helps keep them healthy, which in turn can help prevent high medical costs.

Conclusion:
Food system planning at the municipal level is essential for addressing the ominous issues of natural resource depletion, population growth, development pressures, increased energy costs, and city dwellers’ disconnection from food production. Approaching food system planning from a benefits perspective enables city officials, organizations, and individuals to become involved with their regional food security, nutrition, and heritage. Groups like FoodPrint New Mexico, the Albuquerque Open Space Division, and Rio Grande Community Farms are helping to revitalize the local food system, leading the transformation into a more sustainable future.

References
The Abó ruins is one of several mission ruins sites that comprise the Salina Pueblo Missions National Monument in Torrance County. Established in 1980 through the combination of two New Mexico State Monuments and the former Gran Quivira National Monument, the present Monument comprises a total of 1,100 acres.

Source: www.nps.gov
GEOLOGIC TIME REVEALED THROUGH AN ESCARPMENT ALONG U.S. HIGHWAY 550

photo by
Jessica Frost

Sandoval County
The Spruce Park Community Garden is located in the Spruce Park neighborhood in Albuquerque, just west of the University of New Mexico campus. It is a thriving example of how community gardens can produce food, support culture, and provide a foundation for successful community development.
BY KILEEN MITCHELL

Since the formation of the International Boundary and Water Commission, Mexico and the United States have recognized the need for cooperative regional resource management in their borderlands. Throughout history, defining the border and managing border resources, especially water, has been a challenging process.

The 1983 La Paz Agreement and subsequent negotiations over the North American Free Trade Agreement in the early 1990s engendered binational initiatives to improve environmental health for the millions of residents living in the U.S.-Mexico border region. A binational collaboration in the central border region under the U.S.-Mexico Environmental Protection Program provided the context for a case study on environmental education in New Mexico and Chihuahua. This was a collaborative project between non-governmental organizations and local government entities conducted in 2007-08.

**Binational Environmental Education Trunks Project:** In October 2007 the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency awarded a $45,000 grant to the Gila Conservation Education Center (GCEC) for its Binational Environmental Education Trunks Project. The project was built on a partnership between GCEC—a small non-profit based in New Mexico—and the project’s counterpart in Mexico, the Nature Conservancy—a large international environmental conservation organization. Despite the challenges inherent in transnational collaborative efforts, the Trunks Project was delivered successfully in the towns of Columbus, New Mexico, and Janos and Palomas in Chihuahua, Mexico.

**Project Goals:**
The goals of the project were ambitious. During the one-year grant period, the binational team was to design and conduct nine educational programs on three topics: water contamination and conservation, air pollution, and Chihuahuan Desert ecosystems. The grant would also used to identify and train local teachers and volunteers to give presentations, provide...
27 environmental education sessions to a total of 225 students in third through fifth grade, gather data and evaluate project effectiveness, and refine and articulate a model for replication in other border communities. An additional goal was to identify future funding sources for replication and expansion. Underlying these goals was the project’s guiding mission: to form an effective collaborative relationship between professionals representing organizations in Mexico and the United States.

**Binational Collaboration:**
The grant called for inter-organizational collaboration on both sides of the border. From the beginning, the team collaborated to establish project goals, assignments, and deadlines. The team’s progress in meeting those goals as well as the quality of project outputs was monitored by the project director. As a group, leaders set project standards for curriculum, learning, and materials. They shared all created materials with the team, gave feedback, and made changes accordingly. The U.S. and Mexico leaders shared facilitation responsibilities during binational team meetings.

**Outcomes:**
The Trunks Project team not only met their established goals, but exceeded them. The curriculum, originally intended for students from third through fifth grade, was expanded to address all primary school grades. Project leaders expanded training opportunities to educators in a neighboring town and environmental promoters in Chihuahua. The binational team far exceeded its targeted student and presentation numbers.

Although not written into the project description, one of the goals of the project was to create programs that would last. The durability of the educational materials was a real concern, especially in a rural environment where larger retail stores are often located more than 30 miles away. Durable and non-disposable materials were also important since the project promoted environmental conservation. Thus, the team considered not only the type of activities included in the trunks used to transport and store materials, but also the value and durability of specific items.

A complete, bilingual facilitator’s guide was included in each trunk. It was designed to further aid facilitators, with activities labeled with age or grade appropriateness along with the goals of the activity, sample dialogue, and teaching tips. Finally, the New Mexico and Texas state educational standards for each activity were included in the guides so that teachers could easily incorporate the activities into lesson plans.

Although project promotion was not included in the grant’s request for proposals, respondents in a project-related qualitative research study noted a strong link between project promotion and project success and sustainability. Following the study, the Trunks Project team created project-specific promotional materials such as informational brochures, banners, posters, and hats. Brochures not only informed the communities and other professionals about the Trunks Project, but also gave project leaders a higher level of credibility and recognition. Other promotional materials such as banners and posters served to brand the project and stimulate excitement and conversation—useful tools that had a positive impact on project success.

Project leaders from Mexico and the United States spoke jointly at regional conventions and environmental education events during and after the project cycle. The purpose of the appearances was to promote their work and share experiences, lessons learned, and materials with other professionals working in the region.

**Conclusion:**
Led by the Gila Conservation Education Center in New Mexico and the Nature Conservancy in Mexico, the Binational Environmental Education Trunks Project team successfully completed and exceeded its goals by the end of the project year. Through this binational initiative, those involved with the project offered more student sessions and increased the number of students served as well as the number of teachers trained. The project team also created materials that exceeded the grant requirements to include all primary school grades from first through sixth grade.
and correlated the activities with the Texas and New Mexico educational standards to facilitate project replication.

It is important to recognize that the outcomes from this project directly resulted from binational collaboration. Perhaps these projects are less common because binational project planning and management requires commitment to communication, patience, and openness. This case study, in fact, demonstrated the importance of inter-organizational agreements in projects coordinated by multiple organizations. Although a formal contract between these two organizations was not present in the Trunks Project, the commitment of key project leaders paid off for the Gila Conservation Education Center and the Nature Conservancy, resulting in the delivery of a truly successful project.
The recently designated “International District” in southeast Albuquerque is home to a unique and diverse community of residents from Central and South America, Southeast Asia, Africa, and Eastern Europe. It boasts local attractions including unique ethnic restaurants and shops, a wide variety of religious centers, the New Mexico Expo, and the busy Central Avenue corridor.

There are a variety of efforts gaining momentum that advocate for the interests of the community. This article highlights the strengths and assets of the International District, summarizes the work completed by planning students in the Fall 2009 Advanced Planning Studio at the University of New Mexico (UNM), and provides an overview of the Studio’s final set of recommendations.

**International District Area:**
While the official International District area is delineated by San Mateo to Louisiana and Lomas to Gibson (per Bill No. R-09-316), the sector plan boundaries do not necessarily reflect the community boundaries. With this in mind, the UNM Planning Studio opted to define the boundaries as San Mateo to Wyoming and Lomas to Gibson, with the busy Central and Louisiana intersection, an area that is seen by many as the heart of the International District, at the center. Within those boundaries the area is informally divided into quadrants, made

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**CITY OF ALBUQUERQUE:** Figures from the 2000 U.S. Census

<table>
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<th>Total Population:</th>
<th>Median Household Income:</th>
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Community. Initiative. Implementation

up by four somewhat distinct neighborhoods: Fair West, La Mesa, Trumbull Village, and South San Pedro. While these larger neighborhoods were the focus of the Studio project, there are a number of other neighborhoods (including Elder Homestead, Siesta Hills, and Parkland Hills) that have been, and continue to be, engaged in community development and the sector planning process.

The History and Community:
The area in and around the District has been a fusion of cultures since the 1970s, when a large number of immigrants moved to Albuquerque. In 1975 the State of New Mexico Indochina Refugee Resettlement Program sponsored nearly 500 Vietnamese immigrants who settled in the area. Since the 1970s families and individuals have continued to immigrate from Latin America, Asia, and Africa, some on their own, and others with the assistance of local nonprofit organizations, such as Catholic Charities. Today the International District is approximately 47% Hispanic, 2% African-American and African, and is also home to a sizeable El Salvadoran community as well as the largest Native American population in the city. Many of the most recent immigrants come from Afghanistan, Somalia, and Sudan. This sustained influx of immigrants has contributed to the multi-cultural spirit and entrepreneurial vigor of the area.

Strengths of the District:
The International District offers numerous centers of employment (such as Kirtland Air Force Base, the Veterans Hospital, and Sandia Labs), low housing costs, access to public transit, a high concentration of ethnic restaurants and businesses, and a variety of services including health and community centers. In addition to the more tangible strengths, there are some less distinct assets that contribute to the vibrancy of the community. The International District is home to numerous individuals and organizations working towards social change within the District and beyond. It is also the site of many small-scale endeavors aimed at beautifying and strengthening community connections in the area, including developing public art projects, community gardening, and improving spaces for youth. Some of the District-based organizations involved in these efforts include: St Joseph Community Health, the International District Healthy Community Coalition (IDHCC, formerly the Southeast Heights Health Coalition), the Southeast Team for Entrepreneurial Success (STEPS), the La Mesa Community Improvement Association, East Central Ministries, the Asian–American Association of New Mexico, and the Council District 6 Coalition on Neighborhood Associations. All of these strengths and assets, combined with the support and determination of such organizations, make the District a great place for immigrants to establish themselves.

A New Image for the District:
Over the last ten years community members and groups have worked hard to develop a re-branding strategy for the District that aims to recognize the vibrancy of the community and define its own identity and direction. In 2008 this effort gained momentum, which led to the New Mexico State Legislature’s recognition that the official naming of the area would be an important step towards enhancing the quality of life for residents and improving the visitor experience. On February 26, 2009, the New Mexico Senate District 17 named the area “The International District,” which was followed by a multicultural celebration at the Capitol Rotunda.

Since the naming of the District, the community has increased its re-branding efforts, including the designation of a new logo as well as new signage throughout the area. Signage proposals include street signs, neighborhood and historic designation signs, and streetlight banners. Community organizations, community members, UNM students, and other local individuals played a key role in providing design services and constructive feedback regarding the re-branding process.

Another component of creating a new image for the District is the support of businesses and entrepreneurial opportunities through redevelopment
strategies. Efforts at redevelopment have been partially supported and encouraged by the implementation of the Metropolitan Redevelopment Area (MRA) Plan. The adoption of the Near Heights Metropolitan Redevelopment Plan in September 2000 (Planning Technologies), and the recent adoption of the Near Heights Metropolitan Redevelopment Area Expansion Plan in June 2010 (Sites Southwest), aims to provide a variety of incentives that make the MRA more appealing to entrepreneurs. The MRA Expansion Plan redevelopment strategies could result in incentives such as: public improvements with an “ethnic” theme; expansion of desired products and services; catering to the needs of existing centers of employment; assisting existing businesses with expansion and assisting existing residents in developing new businesses; and providing tax-increment financing to fund further redevelopment.

The MRA Plan is not the only element that helps support these efforts. Organizations such as STEPS, the International District Business Association, and the Albuquerque Women Entrepreneurial Artisan Resource Network (EARN) continue to provide support and services for a number of start-up and existing businesses in the District. STEPS, in collaboration with other District organizations, hosted the 1st Annual Albuquerque International District Festival on September 19, 2009 (http://abqinternationalfestival.org). The festival was held outside of Talin Market (a locally owned international grocery store) and included music, dancing, food vendors, and community organizations. STEPS articulated the following goals of the Festival: to celebrate the naming of the District, to change perceptions and promote community identity, to market programs and services within the District, to develop long-term relationships among organizations, to offer marketing opportunities, and to bring the community together through celebration. In speaking with community members and representatives from local businesses and organizations, it was apparent that connections were made and relationships were formed that may not have happened without such an event. Hosting a yearly festival that highlights the international character of the area is just one such way that cultural diversity and community relationships can be celebrated and supported.

While many people still know the area as “The War Zone” due to its troubled crime history, the word about the International District re-naming and re-branding is spreading. The efforts being made by the city, community organizations, and local businesses are helping to create a new image based on the ethnically and culturally diverse assets of the District.

Planning for a Healthier Community:
Health indicators in the Southeast Heights (87108 zip code) are an important measure of the well being of community residents. Based on the Southeast Heights Community
Profile, conducted by St. Josephs Community Health in 2005, childhood asthma, childhood obesity, and adult diabetes are all major concerns. These conditions are often associated with negative conditions in the built environment such as environmental pollution, limited access to green spaces, and a lack of access to healthy foods (Frumkin, 2005; LJS, 2009). While good design can help mitigate health disparities by providing a better-built environment that encourages physical and social activities, design alone cannot eliminate these disparities.

These Community Profile statistics inspired a number of individuals to advocate for increased community health programs. Some of these advocates, including Enrique Cardiel (Urban Health Extension Coordinator, Bernalillo County Community Health Council), are members of the International District Healthy Community Coalition, formerly the Southeast Heights Health Coalition (SHHC). According to the St. Joseph Community Health website, “[the] coalition began…to work on community health planning after the neighborhood hospital was closed. It has evolved over time to address the various components of healthy communities and encompasses the social determinants of health – Employment, Safety, Housing, Education, and Access to Health Care.” It was the UNM Community and Regional Planning Program that approached the IDHCC to help provide recommendations regarding the upcoming sector planning process for the International District that many feel should address, and seek to change, the health disparities within the community.

UNM Advanced Planning Studio Involvement:
In 2009 students from the University of New Mexico Community and Regional Planning Program participated in the Urban Planning Studio (summer) and the Advanced Planning Studio (fall). These studios were contracted by the IDHCC to assist the community in transforming the International District into a “healthy community.”

Students focused on collecting feedback through community discussions ("charrettes"), visioning meetings, individual and group interviews, and surveys. Overwhelmingly, residents expressed a need and desire to have access to neighborhood services (gas stations, shopping, entertainment), pedestrian-friendly streetscape, multi-modal transportation systems, community gardening opportunities, and parks and open space. The majority of those surveyed also identified a need for quality affordable housing, both multifamily and single family. Many were concerned with the problems of absentee landlords, transient renters, and crime. Despite participant diversity, their comments and suggestions were quite similar. To accommodate community members who could not attend organized meetings, students collected information through focus groups, individual interviews, and surveys (in English and Spanish).
The final step was to assess community concerns and ideas, determine community goals, and formulate the information into policy options and recommendations, which became the basis of a final document produced by students in the Advanced Planning Studio. The document contains a set of goals and recommendations based on the District’s history, existing conditions, and the wants and needs for the community as articulated by District residents. The five sections of the document cover land use, housing, transportation, community and economic development, and the New Mexico Expo site.

The Advanced Planning Studio project culminated in a final visioning meeting in December 2009 in which students presented posters to the IDHCC, community members, elected officials, faculty, and other interested parties. In early 2010 the final document was printed and provided to the IDHCC. It can be found online at: http://www.dukecityfix.com/group/internationaldistrict/forum/topics/info-from-unm-class.

**Conclusion:**

Since the beginning of 2010, two town hall meetings (January and February) as well as the International District Sector Plan Kickoff Meeting (July) have provided community members the opportunity to ask questions, voice their opinions, stress their concerns, and provide feedback regarding the re-branding strategies, campaign to reduce crime, and the sector planning process. Additionally, the UNM Planning Program and other university programs have continued to stay involved in a variety of International District community building and planning efforts. By allowing individuals to have a voice about what will make the area safe, diverse, and welcoming, the District identity can only grow stronger. This involvement, coupled with opportunities that empower individuals to effect change, will allow residents and advocates to take control of community development in the International District.

**REFERENCES**


In April 18, 2009, Bikeworks, a grant-funded, non-profit community bicycle initiative in Silver City, launched the Yellow Bike Project with the release of 39 bicycles to the community. These brightly painted bicycles can be found on bike racks in front of local businesses, parks, and other areas of public congregation. They are available to the community as a form of free public transportation; they are free to ride, but not to keep.

The Bikeworks Workshop and Earn-a-Bike Program:
Each bicycle begins its new life as a donation. Children and adults from the community then perform any necessary repairs at the Bikeworks workshop as part of their obligation to work their way to a
bicycle of their own through the Earn-a-Bike Program. Before release, the bicycles are painted solid yellow—from frame to spokes to handlebars—to give them a distinctive appearance and help them stand out in the community. They are also equipped with Yellow Bike stickers, which helps build awareness about the project throughout the community.

Conclusion:
The Yellow Bike Project could easily be replicated in many other towns and cities throughout New Mexico as an alternative model for providing a low-cost, healthy form of transportation with far-reaching benefits. It has the potential to decrease motor vehicle traffic and noise pollution, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and improve the health and well-being of both individuals and the overall community.
CLAY CAMPBELL
Clay Campbell, AICP, is the Planning Manager for the Bernalillo County Parks and Recreation Department where he manages and oversees the planning, design, and construction of capital projects for parks and open spaces. He supervises a professional staff of five individuals in the Planning and Capital Development Section. Clay began as a Park Planner in 1999, was promoted to Senior Park Planner in 2002 and then became Planning Manager in 2006. He has managed many successful recreational facility design and construction projects, a few of which won national and state awards. Clay has catalyzed the formation of Bernalillo County's Open Space program since 2007. He earned his Master's Degrees in Community and Regional Planning and Latin American Studies from the University of New Mexico (UNM) in 1993 and his Bachelor's Degree in Anthropology from Texas State University-San Marcos in 1988.

WILLIAM H. MEE
William Mee is the President of the Agua Fria Village Association and has been an Association member since 1993. He also served on the Agua Fria Development Review Committee from 1995 to 2006. Retired from New Mexico State Government, William is a part-time farmer and rancher. He and his wife Lois Montoya received their land from her grandfather by Family Transfer and this land has been in the family since 1860.

JANET SPIVEY
Janet E. Spivey retired in 2010 from the New Mexico Department of Transportation (NMDOT) where she worked as a Transportation Planning Liaison assigned to the New Mexico Northeast Regional Planning Organization. Janet is also a professional historian having worked for the Museum of New Mexico/Office of Archaeological Studies in Santa Fe before joining the NMDOT in 1999.

LISA ROACH
Lisa Roach is a 2009 graduate of the Community and Regional Planning Master’s program and the Historic Preservation and Regionalism graduate certificate program of the School of Architecture and Planning at UNM. Her story represents a synopsis of her thesis report resulting from her work with the Healing Waters Trail Steering Committee during the initial year and a half of their trail planning process. Lisa lives in Albuquerque, where she works as a planning consultant and new mom.

ERIC JOHNSON
Eric Johnson, AICP, is a Senior Environmental Project Manager with Marron and Associates in Albuquerque. He specializes in National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) compliance, public involvement, hazardous materials assessments, and socioeconomic analysis. He received his Bachelor of Science degree in Range Ecology from Colorado State University and his Master's in Planning and Community Development from the University of Colorado at Denver. Eric has served as the Secretary for the New Mexico Chapter of the American Planning Association (NMAPA) since 2008.

LESLIE KRYDER
Leslie R. Kryder moved to New Mexico from the Midwest a dozen years ago and soon became involved in regional water planning. She completed a Master’s of Water Resources at UNM in 2009 and also holds an M.A. in History from Northwestern University. She works for Rural Community Assistance Corporation as a technical assistance provider to small water and wastewater systems around the Southwest. She is a member of Tau Sigma Delta honor society of architecture and allied arts.

EMILY PILTCH
Emily Piltch, MPH, is an Associate Scientist at the UNM Prevention Research Center. Her work focuses on supporting pedestrian advocacy and access to healthy food initiatives in Cuba, NM; building state-wide capacity for conducting Health Impact Assessments (HIA) and assisting with the NM State Safe Routes to School (SRTS) program. Before joining the PRC, Ms. Piltch completed the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention -Public Health Prevention Service (PHPS) three year fellowship program. Ms. Piltch’s two-year field placement through the PHPS program was at the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department in Tacoma, Washington, where
she coordinated SRTS capital improvements, promoted community walkability, conducted a local HIA and built capacity for urban agriculture and community garden development. Ms. Piltch holds a Bachelor of Science in neuroscience, a Bachelor of Arts in women’s studies from the University of Rochester and a Masters in Public Health with a concentration in Health Behavior and Health Education from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

RICHARD KOZOLL
Richard Kozoll, MD, MPH, has practiced family and general preventive medicine in New Mexico since 1972. He is a graduate of the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine and completed a general preventive medicine residency at the Johns Hopkins School of Hygiene and Public Health. He serves as Clinical Professor in the Department of Family and Community Medicine at the UNM School of Medicine. Dr. Kozoll has pursued special interests in clinical prevention, physical activity for health, and tobacco avoidance and cessation. He was instrumental in conceptualizing and founding the New Mexico Clinical Prevention Initiative, and has served as New Mexico Medical Society Co-chair since its inception in 2000. This project brought together the Society, New Mexico Department of Health, and many other payer and provider partners to improve the provision of clinical preventive services. In 1988 Dr. Kozoll founded the Nacimiento Medical Foundation to promote community health and welfare through programs of public health, physical activity, nutrition, emergency assistance, and personal skill building. His work was recognized by the Larrazolo Lifetime Achievement Award of the New Mexico Public Health Association and the Community Service Award of the New Mexico Medical Society.

MARK RIVERA
Mark Rivera, AICP, is the Community Development Director for the Village of Angel Fire where he’s lived since 2001. Prior to working in Angel Fire, Mark worked as a planner for Consensus Planning, the City of Gallup, Dona Ana County and the City of Las Cruces. Mark has a Bachelor’s in City and Regional Planning from New Mexico State University and earned certification through the American Institute of Certified Planners in 1997.

HAROLD MARK GARCIA
Harold Garcia has been involved with the City of Las Vegas Gallinas River Trail since the early 1990’s when he worked for the City of Las Vegas. In 1999, Harold joined San Miguel County and eventually became the Public Works Division Director.

MOANNA WRIGHT BARBOUR
Moanna Wright Barbour graduated from UNM in 2009 with a Master’s in Community and Regional Planning, emphasis in Environment and Natural Resources Planning. She now lives in Portland, Oregon with her new daughter and husband. Her career goal is to work in food systems planning at the local, regional, and national level.

LORA ROBERTS
Lora Roberts is a Master’s Candidate in the UNM Community and Regional Planning Program, with an emphasis in Environmental Planning. Her academic interests include food systems planning, community food networks, sustainable development, natural resources planning, perceptions of nature, and the nexus of art and ecology. She works for the Mid-Region Council of Governments Agricultural Collaborative, which supports local growers, food projects and food-related initiatives throughout New Mexico. Her personal interests include gardening, traveling and camping. She currently serves as the NMAPA Student Representative.

KILEEN MITCHELL
Kileen Mitchell graduated in 2009 with a Master’s in Community and Regional Planning with an emphasis in Natural Resources from UNM.

DAVE BAKER
Dave Baker brought his love for bicycles and sustainability together in 1996 when he helped found The Yellow Bike Project in Austin, Texas. After graduating from the University of Texas in 1995 with a degree in Geography and working for eight more years with the all-volunteer nonprofit, Dave and his wife were drawn to Silver City, New Mexico and the Gila Wilderness nearby. In 2005, Dave became involved with a local organization whose members took local children on bicycle rides in the area. This organization became the foundation for The Bike Works, a 3,000 square foot bicycle workshop and community resource space in Silver City. The Bike Works continues to grow and develop diverse programs designed to fully utilize the bicycle as a form of sustainable transportation, recreation, art, and utility.

**VICTORIA HIRSCHBERG**
Victoria A. Hirschberg is from New York, where she grew up in the Bronx, Poughkeepsie and attended Plattsburgh State University, graduating in 2003 with a Bachelor’s in Journalism and Latin American Studies. After working as a newspaper reporter in McAllen, Texas for a few years, she entered the Community and Regional Planning/Latin American Studies graduate program at UNM with an emphasis in Physical Planning. He is also enrolled in UNM’s Town Design certificate program. He is interested in urban history, the design of sacred space, expressions of community values or identity in the built environment, and how the physical environment impacts people’s health. In July 2010, Andrew started working for UNM’s Prevention Research Center on issues such as pedestrian safety. Andrew is currently the president of the UNM Student Chapter of the NMAPA.

**ANDREW GINGERICH**
Andrew Gingerich holds a Bachelor’s in History and is in his third year as a Master’s Candidate in the Community and Regional Planning Program at UNM with an emphasis in Physical Planning. He is also enrolled in UNM’s Town Design certificate program. He is interested in urban history, the design of sacred space, expressions of community values or identity in the built environment, and how the physical environment impacts people’s health. In July 2010, Andrew started working for UNM’s Prevention Research Center on issues such as pedestrian safety. Andrew is currently the president of the UNM Student Chapter of the NMAPA.