

MetroABQ Real Estate Newsletter



Including Rio Rancho, Corrales, Placitas, Atrisco Valley, Los Lunas & the East Mountains.

<Spring>

Our Amazing Urban National Wildlife Refuge: Valle de Oro

Living in the North Valley: On Guadalupe Trail...

Nob Hill's New Look





Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge

With more than 560 protected refuges across the country, the National Wildlife Refuge system protects iconic species & provides some of the best wildlife viewing opportunities possible. Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge, just seven miles south of Downtown Albuquerque, is one of the newer wildlife protective areas, established in 2012.

From the [Fish & Wildlife site](#): *The refuge occupies 570-acres of ancestral & contemporary land of the Tiwa People. As current land stewards, the refuge strives to connect people with wildlife, plants, and the land by providing equitable and just ways to deepen personal relationships with nature, while balancing healthy natural habitat management.*

Valle de Oro is a subtle place. The draw is not a lot of natural calamity; the draw is the natural beauty & tranquility of space. It's a relaxing place to take a walk... There are many animals you might see at the Valle de Oro, but you may not see any of them. The list includes eagles, sandhill cranes, hawks, vultures, kestrels, swallows, brown bats & dozens of other itinerant & long-term bird species; also, foxes & dragonflies are there. Other species--particularly large predators like cougars, bobcats & coyotes--live there too.

Above are two images of the new Valle de Oro Visitor's Center. Shaped like the wingspan of sandhill crane, the Visitor's Center is a destination unto itself. Check it out: it has dozens of excellent animal & plant displays; displays about gardening in the local ecological zones; fabulous nature books to browse & buy; interesting events like photo contests hang on the walls of the Center, among many other community-involvement projects.

One such project is the Field Murals, which are scattered around the Visitor's Center on a small walking loop. From the Visitor's Center info: The muralists are representative of young female artists in the Albuquerque Metro area. Each mural represents present & future habitats at Valle de Oro NWR. One of them is seen below...





1 Swale

A swale is a low channel in the land that collects and directs stormwater. This swale supports a meadow that runs through the Refuge.

2 Water quality structures

AMAFCA will build structures to stop garbage from flowing into the Refuge. This is a future project that is part of longer-term plans for the Refuge.

3 Outlet

The outlet drains water into the bosque.

4 Middle Rio Grande

Conservancy District drain

The Barr Drain will be curved to slow flow. This is a future project that is part of longer-term plans for the Refuge.

5 Saltgrass meadow habitat

6 Lowland mesa habitat

7 Chihuahuan desert habitat

8 Playa habitat

9 Visitor center

10 Seasonal wetlands

11 Bosque habitat

12 Mesic Meadow

1 Cenagal

Un swale es un canal bajo en la tierra que recolecta y dirige las aguas pluviales. Este pantano sostiene un prado que atraviesa el Refugio.

2 Estructuras de calidad del agua

AMAFCA construirá estructuras para evitar que la basura fluya hacia el Refugio. Este es un proyecto futuro que forma parte de planes a más largo plazo para el Refugio.

3 Toma de corriente

La salida drena agua hacia el bosque.

4 Medio Rio Grande

Drenaje del distrito de Conservancy

El drenaje Barr se curvará para reducir el flujo. Este es un proyecto futuro que forma parte de planes a más largo plazo para el Refugio.

5 Hábitat del prado de pasto salado

6 Hábitat de meseta de tierras bajas

7 Hábitat del desierto de Chihuahua

8 Hábitat de playa

9 Centro de Visitantes

10 Temporada de humedales

11 Hábitat del bosque

12 Prado Mesic

The Rio Grande river used to ebb & flow naturally, creating wet meadows & seasonal animal & plant estuaries. Two centuries of growth along the river stunted that natural process. The Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge hopes to transition from agriculture fields to a diversity of native plant & animal habitats. Formerly an old dairy farm alongside the Rio Grande Bosque, the Bosque--river forest--is essentially being pulled out onto the floodplain, & is being shaped into shallow overflow estuaries & wet meadowlands, seen on the map above.

It's a long-term work-in-progress project that will take years to realize. Already though, a lot has been done: On the map above, everything to the left/west of the **You Are Here** sign (which is the Visitor's Center), did not exist ten years ago--the Swale, Meadows, Lowland Mesa Habitat, Playa Habitat, Seasonal Wetlands, Mesic Meadows & Bosque Habitat have all been created for the time during wetter years--

when the Rio Grande flows over its banks--the Valle de Oro & all the plants & animals within it, will be direct beneficiaries of all that extra water.



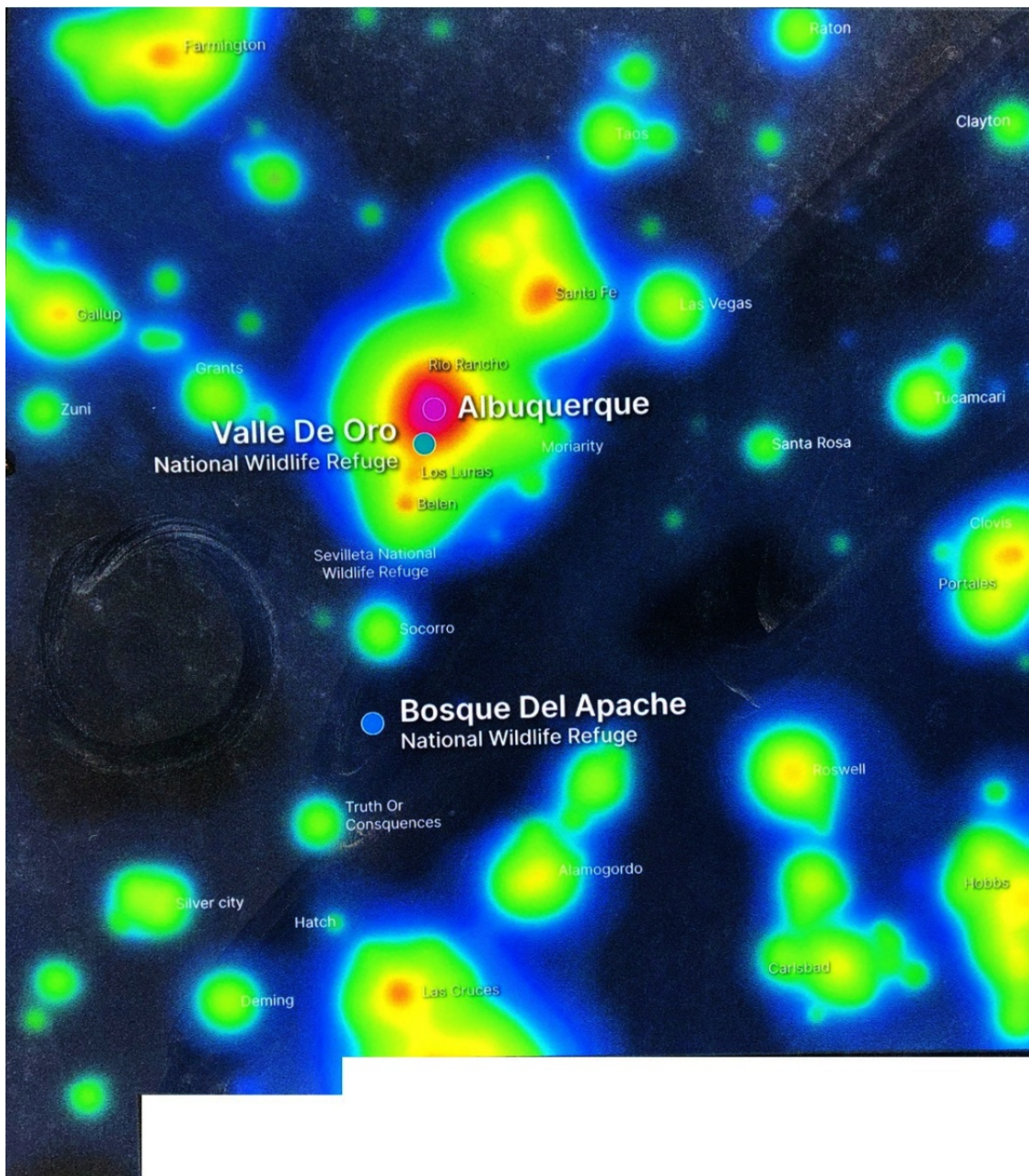
The Swallows of Valle de Oro

More & more birds species are discovering Valle de Oro, either utilizing it as a rest stop on their way through, or finding reasons to stay for a season or longer.

Small Cliff Swallows have taken up residence in the ceiling beams of the Valle de Oro Outdoor Amphitheater. Their gourd-shaped nests have a funnel-like entrance, which points down, so they can access it from below. A few of the nests can be seen above; they landed with materials for their nest, then flew off so quickly that the nests were the only item to photograph. A Cliff Swallow, in all it's colorful feather finery, is

below, from [It's a Bird Thing website](#).





Urban Night Sky Place

The International Dark Sky Association has designated Valle de Oro NWR as the first [Urban Night Sky Place \(UNSP\)](#), because of their work educating people about light pollution.

Why it matters, from Valle de Oro: "You have probably heard of air pollution, but have you heard of light pollution? Light pollution occurs when there is too much non-natural light in the night sky. Urban places have more light pollution than rural ones. That's why you can see more stars camping than you can in the city. Light pollution can confuse animals that use the moon & stars to find their way. People are affected by light pollution too--some people find it hard to sleep at night."

Valle de Oro minimizes its impact on wildlife by installing warm-in-color lights that are

shielded from above, so the light doesn't shine upwards.

Above is a map showing the amount of nighttime light that comes from the population centers in New Mexico. As Albuquerque is the largest metro area in the state, it emits the most light pollution. Even small towns put off a lot of night light: notice Clayton in the upper right side of the state, almost bordering Texas. Clayton is pretty bright for a town of only 2700 people...



Hiking Anyone?

For me, a favorite part of the Valle de Oro NWR is hiking around the refuge, & its

singular connection to the Rio Grande river. From Valle de Oro, you are adjacent to the 4,300 acre [Rio Grande Valley State Park](#)--aka The Bosque Trail--which brings you along the river as far north as Alameda, just north of the Metro. Here's the map of the [Rio Grande State Park trail](#).

Above & below are a few scenes traveling through the Valle de Oro, to the Rio Grande Bosque & ultimately to the river itself. Directly above is the bosque/river forest, as it's being drawn into the Valley; the plantings on the left side of the image are newer Cottonwood tree plantings, that will add to the river forest as it fills out.

As it had flooded over it's eastern banks, getting to the Rio Grande proved difficult...it's easy if one doesn't mind slogging a bit into the water & atop downed tree trucks, the river awaits...Further below is the mighty Rio Grande.

There are several short or longer hikes that originate from the Visitor's Center, all of them relatively flat & easy...cooler months are better, as there is little shade until you reach the Bosque...







Back at The Outlet--a currently dry section along the Valle de Oro property border that drains water back into the Bosque--you can see the Sandia Mountains in the background. The mountains are not very far away, even from the Valle de Oro. And Valle de Oro is also not very far away from the MetroABQ--so close & so interesting, for me it's a valuable place to regularly visit...



Living On Guadalupe Trail

Welcome to the North Valley, a unique, somewhat rural, somewhat urban enclave

a few miles north of the bustling MetroABQ Downtown. Life can be a bit slower here, which is why it's a popular place to live. Residential lanes are often dirt roads, & bonus if it's at the end of a quaint, tree-lined cul-de-sac.

Introducing, on Guadalupe Trail NW:

Located in a gated 3-home hamlet, at the end of a discreet, tree-lined cul-de-sac, in the MetroABQ's verdant North Valley, **4842C Guadalupe Trail NW** is a special place. Privately located & serenely designed, coming home means it's time to relax. The fabulous greenscaped front yard is a great place to start...

Now come on inside: Take the 3D Virtual Walking Tour, linked below.

3D Virtual Walking Tour:
[4842C Guadalupe Trail NW](#)





For more information, see the full listing, linked below:

[4842C Guadalupe Trail NW](#)

4 Bedrooms // 3 Baths // 2 Car Garage // 2400sqft

Asking \$675,000



Open Houses...

I am honored to list 4842C Guadalupe Trail NW & am holding it open this Friday from 3-5pm, & Saturday from 11-1pm. Stop by & see the place & let's chat.

Meanwhile, for information about all Open Houses in the MetroABQ, check out the ever-updating list on my website:

[MetroABQ Open Houses](#)



Nob Hill Neighborhoods New Look

The Nob Hill Neighborhood Association ([NHNA](#)) newsletter has come out recently & a bunch of items stand out.

The logo has been updated, seen above, reflecting a modern take on the early-to-mid last century streamline modern architectural aesthetic.

The newsletter has some great information this season too: from great historical facts like about the iconic Nob Hill Shopping Center, seen below, to modern updates like info about granny flats, casitas & short term rentals in Nob Hill. I love the article about the famous Tony Edaakie Murals beneath the original De Anza Motel--they're still there & if you're lucky, they're occasionally able to be viewed. Through the NHNA, I was able to view the murals--no cameras allowed--so the memory is the only things I carry forward from that. Saving Pine trees & a plant profile about the Agastache, a blooming perennial that attracts bees, hummingbirds & butterflies are

other features. There's a lot more to read about & appreciate in the newsletter.

If you missed it this season--you'll find it here: [Nob Hill Neighborhood Association Newsletter](#).

Note: I live & relax in Nob Hill, & regularly place an ad in the Nob Hill Neighborhood Association Newsletter.



As interest rates fluctuate, many people are seeking mid-to-long-term rental solutions. Good property management--**for both tenants & owners**--is more essential than ever. Going on a year-long sabbatical? Call me--I quickly find good temporary & long-term tenants for all the properties I manage.

Missing something?...

The article archive is here:

[MetroABQ Newsletter--Medium.com](http://MetroABQNewsletter--Medium.com)

www.ChrisLucasABQ.com

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[3-D Walking Tours](#)

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[Little Free Libraries Map](#)

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I am a dedicated seven-days-a-week real estate professional, representing clients for 15+ years throughout the MetroABQ—I love this city!

I continually seek out the hidden gems in all areas for my **Buyers**, & am a tireless promoter for all of my **Sellers'** listings. I love talking real estate...

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My 3-D Virtual Tours



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