

Corrales Bosque Preserve Management Guidelines

Purpose

These management guidelines were developed to provide direction to the Village of Corrales Governing Body, Village of Corrales staff, and the Corrales Bosque Advisory Commission.

Corrales Bosque Preserve

“The mission of the Village of Corrales in creating the Corrales Bosque Preserve (the Preserve) is to preserve and protect the natural and native conditions, habitat, and wildlife in the Preserve in order to ensure that an increasing human population does not adversely affect or otherwise change the Rio Grande bosque within the village, leaving no areas preserved and protected in their natural condition.” (Village of Corrales Ordinance 11-1; original Ord.234 1990)

Animal and Plant Life

- Protect and promote a variety of habitats, including a mix of tree and shrub heights and species, grass meadows, younger willow stands, and a mix of water channel types in order to maintain a biologically diverse ecosystem of wildlife populations and plant communities
- Mitigate detrimental effects of invasive plants by removal when appropriate
- Consider introduction of canopy tree species adapted to New Mexico’s changing climatic and hydrologic conditions
- Maximize use of native plants adapted to site conditions and that support wildlife.
- Limit vegetation management activities in the bosque to outside of migratory bird season

Environment and Pollution

- Reduce non-point source pollution by encouraging pet waste pickup
- Minimize use of pesticides and herbicides
- Where feasible, prefer mechanical treatment of invasive plant species over chemical treatments
- Prioritize bank-lowering and backwater creation projects when climatic and hydrologic conditions permit. Maintain current backwater channel functionality

Corrales Fire Department and Police Department

- Conduct fire risk mitigation efforts such as shaded fuel break maintenance and targeted removal of invasive species and dead and down vegetation without compromising other Preserve management principles and guidelines
- Close the Preserve in times of high fire danger or for public safety threats
- Patrol the Preserve to enforce Village ordinances

Recreation

- Manage as a natural area for passive, (non-motorized and non-consumptive) slow speed recreational activities including walking, running, horse riding, bicycling, photography and bird-watching
- Prohibit infrastructure development contrary to natural and protected conditions, including paving or resurfacing of roads and trails
- Discourage creation of new trails through the forest and down levee road slopes

Research and Education

- Allow use of the Preserve as a resource to promote beneficial research and monitoring activities that will help inform management decisions
- Promote use of the Preserve for educational activities

Interagency Cooperation

- Coordinate plans and activities with the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District, owner and co-manager with Corrales of the Preserve
- Seek resources from and partnerships with universities, state and federal agencies, and Pueblos and local governments for projects that support the mission of the Preserve
- Consider relevant planning documents and data produced by state and local agencies, universities, the Village of Corrales, and other organizations in guiding management decisions

References

- The Corrales Bosque Preserve, by Jim Findley, 2005
- Corrales Habitat Management Plan – draft, 2009
- Nature Preserve gate signs (image)
- Corrales Important Bird Area (IBA) Application-2013
- Middle Rio Grande Conservation Action Plan - update September 2019
- Tree guide- nature.org/newmexicotrees.