

# NEWS RELEASE

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## **Groundbreaking Ceremony** *for the* **Ecosystem Revitalization at Route 66 Project**

*A groundbreaking ceremony between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District will take place*

**Saturday**

**October 11<sup>th</sup>**

**10:00 a.m.**

in the open field south of  
**Atrisco Road and Riverview Place**  
*(Directions follow news release)*

*Speaking will be Senator Pete Domenici, Representative Heather Wilson, Mayor Martin Chavez, Honorable John Paul Woodley, Jr., Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, and Lieutenant General Robert Van Antwerp, Commander of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers*

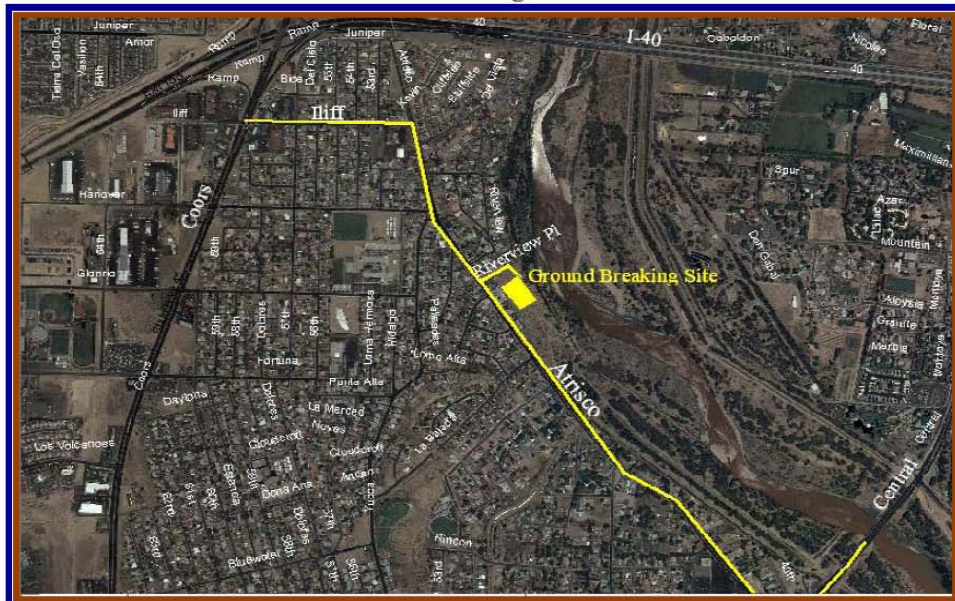
In the spring of 2008, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District (MRGCD) agreed to partner in the final design and construction of the Ecosystem Revitalization @ Route 66 Project. Together with other local authorities, organizations, and Federal Agencies including the New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission, City of Albuquerque Open Space Division, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, a detailed plan for construction was developed.

The first phase of a larger 25 million dollar effort to restore 17 river miles of the Rio Grande Bosque through Albuquerque, the 6.6 million dollar Ecosystem Revitalization @ Route 66 Project area is located on the west bank of the Rio Grande from Bridge Street to approximately a half mile north of Central Avenue, and on the east bank above Central. The project will restore ecosystem function, create habitat for endangered species such as the Rio Grande Silvery Minnow and Southwestern Willow Flycatcher, and increase public awareness of resource conservation. The project will restore approximately 121 acres of Bosque, which will be accomplished by replacing exotic vegetation with native species, creating high-flow channels and wetland habitat, and removing debris and dysfunctional jetty jacks. Ancillary features will include public access trails and a boardwalk, observation platforms, and educational signage.

Construction of the 6.6 million dollar project is expected to be completed in May 2010. The project is cost shared between the Corps of Engineers (4.8 million) and the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District, (1.8 million).

**\* Please Wear Comfortable Shoes and Clothing \***

**\* Limited Parking Available \***



**From the North or West side of Albuquerque:**

From Coors Blvd. just south of I-40,

- Turn EAST onto Iliff Road.
- Turn SOUTH (right) onto Atrisco Drive.
- Turn EAST (left) onto Riverview Place.
- Turn SOUTH (right) into lot where parking and ceremony will be held

**From the South or East side of Albuquerque:**

From Central and the River,

- Turn NORTH onto Atrisco Drive.
- Turn EAST (right) onto Riverview Place.
- Turn SOUTH (right) into lot where parking and ceremony will be held