



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Valle de Oro

National Wildlife Refuge

About the Refuge

570 acres, located five miles south of downtown Albuquerque on the Rio Grande.

Significance

- Partnership opportunities with educational institutions and resource agencies.
- Educational opportunities for urban youth.
- Trail connection to the Bosque and Rio Grande.
- Enhanced public recreation.
- Preservation of open space in metro-Albuquerque.
- Potential ecotourism opportunities that support the local economy.
- Demonstration area for restored riparian habitat.
- Water use for on-site restoration and Rio Grande environmental flows.
- Valle de Oro NWR is a flagship project of the Middle Rio Grande Initiative.



The Future of Albuquerque's first urban refuge

Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge, the Southwest's first urban refuge will serve as an urban oasis for both wildlife and people on a former dairy farm just a few miles south of New Mexico's largest metropolitan area. The refuge will fulfill the goals of President Obama's America's Great Outdoors initiative to work with community partners to establish a 21st century conservation ethic and reconnect people, especially young people, to the natural world. Through the EPA's Urban Waters program, Valle de Oro was recognized as part of key conservation and restorations projects along the river. Additionally, the refuge will serve

to enhance the river corridor and bring the Rio Grande into the daily lives of the citizens of Albuquerque.

Urban refuges such as Valle de Oro, offer unique environmental education and recreation opportunities in highly populated areas while promoting the mission of the refuge system to protect wildlife and their habitats for the benefit of present and future generations of Americans.

For Further Information, contact

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Current Partners

- Bernalillo County
- Albuquerque Metropolitan Arroyo Flood Control Authority
- U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
- The State of New Mexico
- Trust for Public Land
- National Fish and Wildlife Foundation/Walmart/
Wells Fargo Bank
- Friends of Valle de Oro
National Wildlife Refuge

Project Status

- The refuge has acquired 431 of the total 570 acres and efforts are ongoing to procure remaining acreage.
- Valle de Oro Refuge Manager hired.
- The Friends of Valle de Oro has been formed and are finalizing their non-profit status.
- The New Mexico State Legislature provided \$1.1 million in 2014 Capital Outlay funding.

