

# Flood Control, Open Space, and Art

The Calabacillas Arroyo empties into the Rio Grande near this project site. It is the largest arroyo on the west side of the Rio Grande in this area, having a length of nearly 17 miles and a watershed of 77 square miles. AMAFCA has stabilized the critical lower part of the arroyo's channel. This lower section includes artificial fossils in the channel walls.

Between Coors and Unser Boulevards, the Calabacillas is designated "Major Public Open Space," managed by the City of Albuquerque Open Space Division. It's only one of the many areas of undeveloped land owned or managed by the Open Space Division. This arroyo is popular with hikers and equestrian users. The great width and depth of the arroyo, together with its long and open vistas, demonstrate the powerful forces of nature in arid environments.

The Calabacillas Arroyo can also be accessed at Hunters Run Park, Paradise Meadows Park, Tuscany Park, and Paradise Skies Park.

Albuquerque Metropolitan Arroyo Flood Control Authority (AMAFCA)  
Protecting Life and Property Since 1963

Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District (MRGCD)  
Irrigation, Drainage, and River Management

City of Albuquerque Parks and Recreation Department, Open Space Division  
Preserving Natural Land for Public Benefit



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More information can be found at the AMAFCA website:  
[www.amafca.org](http://www.amafca.org)

# Calabacillas Arroyo

## Flood Control, Open Space, and Art



## Albuquerque Metropolitan Arroyo Flood Control Authority

2600 Prospect Ave NE  
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# CALABACILLAS ARROYO Channel Stabilization Project

The Calabacillas Arroyo Channel Stabilization Project was fully funded and constructed by the Albuquerque Metropolitan Arroyo Flood Control Authority (AMAFCA) and completed in 1998. The purpose of this project was to stabilize the arroyo and protect the surrounding neighborhoods. It was completed within the existing 200 ft right of way. Access to trails and open space were also provided. This project won several awards, which can be found on the sign in the parking area.

Visitors are welcome here, but remember in times of pending rainfall "DITCHES ARE DEADLY." You are invited to walk the arroyo upstream on both the north and south sides west towards Coors Boulevard, weather permitting. Along the way you will discover artificial fossils cast into the channel walls to illustrate the geologic and historic past of New Mexico.

Distinct "eras" are depicted in the side of the arroyo, each with a different color. Occasionally "faults" offset the eras.

The artificial fossils embedded into the rock layers depict a wide array of historical information. The fossils were constructed through the voluntary aid of approximately 300 individuals, including staff of the National Museum of Nuclear Science and History, the Albuquerque Museum, and the New Mexico Museum of Natural History and Science, as well as several elementary school classes including Comanche, Inez, Sierra Vista, Navajo, Zia, Lew Wallace, and Eugene Field. More information can be found at the AMAFCA website, [www.amafca.org](http://www.amafca.org).

# Scavenger Hunt

Can you find the following?

Note: a few are located on the south side near Coors Blvd



Conquistador helmet .....



Cannon .....



Skateboard.....



Tyrannosaurus rex .....



"Fat Man" atomic bomb .....



Jell-O box .....



Trilobite .....



Mammoth.....



Flute.....



Wagon wheel.....



Sabertooth cat .....



Guitar.....



Computer.....



Spear.....



Cowboy boot .....



J. Robert Oppenheimer's car.....



Prehistoric horse.....



Chalkboard.....



Radio.....



Rattlesnake .....



Telephone.....



Cockroaches (7 total) ...



Baby footprints .....

Many more are not listed here. The south side of the arroyo has many interesting imprints as well. Answers may be found at [www.amafca.org](http://www.amafca.org)