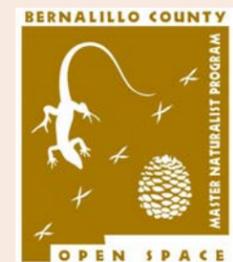




SANCHEZ FARM



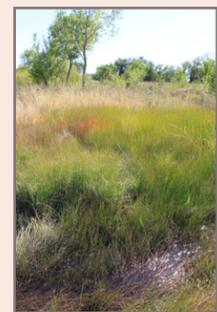
THIS PROJECT BY: The Bernalillo County Open Space Master Naturalist Program which aims to install the pursuit of life long learning and promote environmental stewardship. Participants are actively engaged through education and service dedicated to the beneficial management of natural resources on Open Space properties.



PROPERTY DESCRIPTION:
 Bernalillo County acquired Sanchez Farm (14 acre tract of land) in 1997 as part of a drainage retention basin for storm water run-off from Isleta Blvd. County Parks and Recreation and community members were interested in developing the site as a wetland habitat, working agricultural area, and South Valley heritage interpretive center. Today, La Plazita Gardens is the leading community organization who has seen this vision into a reality by engaging youth and other local members of the South Valley to practice innovative farming techniques.

"La Plazita Gardens serves as a center for the community where dialogue and transformation can take place. La Plazita Gardens natural beauty is an outdoor learning environment. The growing of food helps youth connect to the Earth. Through observation of natural patterns, nature becomes the teacher by demonstration the most efficient use of energy and relationships."

- Joe Garcia, La Plazita Gardens Outreach Director.



TREES



GOLDEN RAIN TREE
KOELREUTERIA PANICULATA

Deciduous tree grows 20-40 feet tall; leaves slender and long 3-5 inches, dark green on both sides; young branches are yellowish turning to dark grey with maturity. Goodding's willow grows on riverbanks and in marshy habitats. It provides habitat to wildlife, particularly as nesting sites for birds.



GOODDING'S WILLOW
SALIX GOODDINGII



SIBERIAN ELM
ULMUS PUMILA

Large deciduous tree with separate male and female trees; distinctive seed pods release a white cotton like seeds. Cottonwood roots grow to the water table and requires flooding to germinate which is why they are usually found around water. They are also a valuable source of food and shelter for wildlife.



COTTONWOOD
POPULUS DELTOIDES SSP.

Grows 30-40 feet tall with dark green foliage turning yellow in fall. Flowers are showy, fragrant and yellow usually blooming from June to July. Seedpods are lantern-like and papery, turning a rich brown in fall. The bark is furrowed and ridged. Golden rain tree is usually grown as an ornamental tree. The seeds are edible when roasted, but not commonly consumed.

SHRUBS



GLOBEMALLOW
SPHAERALCEA ANGUSTIFOLIA

Perennial herb about 2-4 feet tall; stems and leaves light green in color covered with fine hairs; flowers orangeish pink in color. Globemallow grows in highly disturbed sites and is one of the most common flowers seen throughout New Mexico.

One to several erect stems grow from the base 1-3 feet tall. Leaves are compound and have a fan like appearance; flower heads are small ball-shaped clusters, green to whitish in color with a unique bundling, twisted seedpod. Seeds are desirable for wild birds and is considered a nutritious and palatable food source for wildlife. Past peoples used a leaf tea for itch relief and other medicinal purposes.



BUNDLE FLOWER
DESMANTHUS ILLINOIENSIS



RABBITBRUSH
ERICAMERIA NAUSEOSA

Shrub to about 3 feet tall; stems are straight with white to green color; leaves linear and gray-green with or without hairs; flowers in large bunches, yellow. Rabbitbrush grows in open, dry areas and is very decorative when it blooms. It has a variety of medicinal and miscellaneous uses such as producing a dye, and making latex, rubber.

Perennial shrub grows 5-6 feet tall and can be 6 feet wide, A native shrub with tart, edible red berries and rich orange-red fall foliage. The showy fruit clusters are eaten by wild birds. Well adapted to a wide range of soils from sandy and rocky to red clay.



THREE-LEAF SUMAC
RHUS TRILOBATA

GRASSES



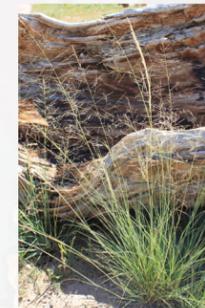
REDTOP
AGROSTIS GIGANTEA

Perennial grass to 3 feet tall; long slender leaves; flower head is an open panicle of flowered spikelets. Redtop prefers moist soils in full sun. When the flower cluster is fully open, redtop has an light flowing appearance and an overall reddish purple hue. It is a good grazing grass for animals and originally came from Europe.

Perennial grass to 2 feet tall from a bunch of above ground stems; stems are thick with long hairs; leaves are thin and about a 6 inches long; flower head of dense small beads often paired along one side of the stem; green, turning brown with age. Vine mesquite grows in sandy soils in full sun and partially shaded areas.



VINE MESQUITE
PANICUM OBTUSUM



ALKALI SACATON
SPOROBOLUS AIROIDES

Annual grass around 3 feet tall; green stem and leaves with tan feathery distinctive seed pod on top of stem looks like a broom top. It grows in cultivated fields and open disturbed areas.



SHOWY WINDMILLGRASS
CHLORIS VIRGATA

WETLANDS

Wetlands exist at the lowest points between the engineered storm water runoff control structures at the north and south ends of the site. Formed by the site's low water table and storm water collection from the surrounding area, the wetlands creates a unique and diverse habitat for wildlife. It also aids in the filtration and cleaning of the storm water runoff.

Wetlands are considered the most biologically diverse of all ecosystems. This wetlands provides habitat for amphibians, reptiles, birds, insects, and mammals. The plant life is characterized by a mix of grasses, sedges, cattails, tamarack and the following:

Eleocharis (Sedge family)
Pascopyrum (Western Wheatgrass)
Andropogon glomeratus (Broom Grass)
Equisetum (Horsetail, Snake Grass)
Sorghum halepense (Johnsongrass)

and the species listed below:



COMMON REED
PHRAGMITES AUSTRALIS

Perennial aquatic or semi-aquatic herb to 6 feet tall; leaves basal, erect, linear, and flat; flower head is a dense, dark brown cylindrical spike, .5 - 1 inch wide; usually no separation between male and female sections. Grows well in the early stages of wetland development; spreads rapidly and provides important food and cover for wildlife.



BROADLEAF CATTAILS
TYPHA LATIFOLIA

CREDITS: CREATED BY AARON ROY COFFEEN WITH HELP FROM:
A Field Guide to the Plants and Animals of the middle Rio Grande Bosque, University of New Mexico Press, Albuquerque, 2008

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