

Ecological Witness and Land-Based Practice

Outdoor mindfulness, shared reflection, and ecological learning in Albuquerque and across New Mexico.

Slow down. Pay attention. Connect with the land beneath your feet. This place-based meditation and environmental-learning initiative welcomes the UNM and greater Albuquerque community—faculty, students, staff, and members of the public—to encounter sustainability as a shared practice of care for land, water, public health, cultural memory, and future generations.

JOIN ONE GATHERING OR JOIN THEM ALL. Gatherings during the UNM fall and spring semesters include place-based context, a guided 30-minute meditation, tea, reflection, and an optional continued hike.

WHAT WE WILL EXPLORE

- Drought, water scarcity, and river restoration
- Wildfire risk, recovery, and watershed awareness
- Land use, urban ecology, and green infrastructure
- Ecological grief, resilience, and grounded action

WHAT TO BRING

- Something to sit on, such as a backpacking chair or ground pad
- Water, sun protection, and clothing for the conditions
- A journal, if you would like to write during reflection
- Openness to quiet observation and shared dialogue

2026–27 Proposed Gathering Schedule

DATE	SITE & PROPOSED MEETING LOCATION	THEME	TIME
Aug. 29, 2026	Bear Canyon Open Space, Albuquerque <i>Proposed: John Robert Dam</i>	Arid land management, urban arroyos, drought-stressed flora, and stormwater infrastructure	7:00–9:30 a.m.
Sept. 26, 2026	Galisteo Basin Preserve <i>Proposed: Cowboy Shack Trailhead / main trailhead parking</i>	Grassland and piñon-juniper ecology, drought, erosion, and land stewardship	7:00–9:30 a.m.
Oct. 31, 2026	Cerrillos Hills State Park <i>Proposed: park visitor center</i>	Extraction history, mining legacies, land use, and repair	8:30–11:00 a.m.
Nov. 28, 2026	Rio Grande Nature Center State Park, Albuquerque <i>Proposed: visitor center</i>	Riparian habitat, migratory birds, river ecology, and water	9:00–11:30 a.m.
Jan. 30, 2027	Hyde Memorial State Park <i>Proposed: main park entrance / visitor area</i>	Forest ecology, drought, watershed awareness, and wildfire risk	9:00–11:30 a.m.
Feb. 20, 2027	Tingley Beach / Bosque, Albuquerque <i>Proposed: Tingley Beach main plaza / visitor building</i>	Managed water, restoration, recreation, and urban ecological care	9:00–11:30 a.m.
Mar. 27, 2027	Bandelier National Monument <i>Proposed: visitor center and shuttle area</i>	Canyon ecology, water, wildfire recovery, erosion, and human relationships	8:30–11:00 a.m.
Apr. 24, 2027	Elena Gallegos Open Space, Albuquerque <i>Proposed: information center / main picnic-area parking</i>	Fire ecology, the wildland–urban interface, and community preparedness	8:00–10:30 a.m.
May 29, 2027	Valles Caldera National Preserve <i>Proposed: Valle Grande entrance station / visitor contact station</i>	High-elevation meadow ecology, fire recovery, and watershed resilience	9:00–11:30 a.m.

First 100 participants: Receive a Sea to Summit Frontier Ultralight Collapsible 12-ounce Camp Cup.

Meeting locations are proposed and may change. Exact meeting instructions, parking information, and a map pin will be shared with participants before each gathering. Proposed sites and times are subject to change based on conditions and event logistics. Maps and other exact-location information will be shared in the [Google Drive folder](#).

Questions or interest? Roberta Lavin | rlavin@salud.unm.edu | 703-431-6553