

*The Aldo Leopold Trail features interpretive signage to honor Leopold's vision of an ethical relationship with the land.*

Aldo Leopold, considered the father of modern wildlife ecology, spent many years of his life in New Mexico and left behind an impressive environmental legacy in our great state.

Among his many accomplishments are the creation of the Gila Wilderness near Silver City (the first proclaimed Wilderness area in the U.S.) and the foundation of the Albuquerque Wildlife Federation. He also strongly advocated for the responsible growth of Albuquerque during his time here.

In 1909, Leopold graduated from the Yale School of Forestry and started a career with the U.S. Forest Service in Arizona and New Mexico.

Leopold had a special love for Albuquerque. It was here where he met his wife Estella and lived in a house near the Rio Grande. In 1918, Leopold served as the Secretary of Albuquerque's Chamber of Commerce. At this time he promoted the creation of what would later become the Rio Grande Valley State Park. Leopold's vision and efforts also eventually lead to the creation of the Rio Grande Zoological Park, Botanical Gardens, and the Rio Grande Nature Center.

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Parking for the Aldo Leopold Trail is available at the Rio Grande Nature Center State Park for the cost of a Day Use permit which can be purchased at the self-pay station. The cost is \$3.00 per vehicle (exact cash or check) Friends of the RGNC permit holders and NM State Parks annual permit holders enter free with valid permit displayed.

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The Rio Grande Nature Center State Park is managed by New Mexico State Parks. Similar in name – but different - is the Rio Grande Valley State Park. Rio Grande Valley State Park refers to the forest along the Rio Grande and is managed by the City of Albuquerque.

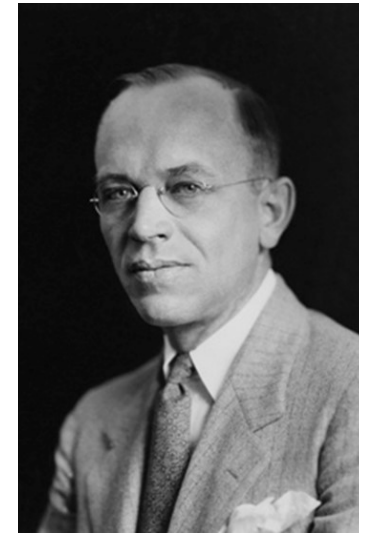
In 2009 the City Open Space Division and the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District dedicated a section of the Rio Grande Valley State Park as the "Aldo Leopold Forest."

The Aldo Leopold Forest is about 53 acres in size, extending from the north boundary of the Nature Center to the southeast side of the Montañito Bridge. The forest includes a naturally surfaced trail extending from the existing paved trail. This trail connects to the Montañito Bridge and ties into existing trail systems on the west side of the river at the Pueblo Montano picnic area.

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*"Take only memories ... Leave only footprints"*

Information for this brochure comes from the following website  
<http://www.cabq.gov/parksandrecreation/open-space/lands/aldo-leopold-forest>



## EXPLORE THE ALDO LEOPOLD TRAIL

*"I am glad I shall never be young  
without wild country to be young in.  
Of what avail are forty freedoms  
without a blank spot on the map?"  
~Aldo Leopold*

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The City of Albuquerque  
Open Space Visitor Center  
897-8831

