

State of New Mexico
Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department

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News Release

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Bluewater Lake State Park Celebrates New and Upgraded Facilities

Official Ribbon Cutting Ceremony Held Today, November 9

Prewitt, NM - Bluewater Lake State Park celebrated the completion of \$2.6 million in capital projects and the first electric vehicle charging station in a New Mexico State Park on November 9th with a ribbon cutting ceremony at its new, state-of-the-art visitor center. Local dignitaries and officials from the Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department, NM Game & Fish Department, and Cibola County attended.

The new building combines staff offices and a visitor information area with a comfort station housing ADA accessible showers and restroom facilities. Major upgrades were also made to the plumbing and electrical infrastructure serving the Stoneridge area of the park, as well as construction of a new wastewater treatment facility and RV dump station.

The new wastewater treatment facility has a hybrid system combining a 10,000-gallon septic holding tank with a low-pressure dosing evapotranspiration bed. Additionally, the Park's water well was rehabilitated, and a new water treatment system was constructed to ensure the safety and quality of the park's drinking water.

An electric vehicle (EV) charging station was installed in June serving travelers along the I-40 corridor and all visitors to the Park. Energy Conservation and Management Division Director Louise Martinez said, "The first EV charging station at a State Park is a big deal. We are excited to see how EV-friendly Bluewater Lake State Park may attract more visitors." The charging station can charge two EVs simultaneously and will benefit from on-site solar power to be added to the Park soon. The station is a level 2 charger, so EVs can expect a to gain around 30 miles of range per hour charge.

Other major improvements to the park included construction of a new entrance station and turnaround area, repaving of the main roadways in the park, renovation of the main boat ramp, renovation of an existing comfort station, construction of two new ADA campsites and ADA access to the vault toilet and trailhead, and construction of three new volunteer campsites.

Construction activities at the park began in the Spring of 2015 and continued through October 2018. Total construction costs were \$2,604,000 -- about half provided by Federal Land and Water Conservation Funds available to New Mexico.

"These projects at Bluewater Lake State Park would not have been possible without the support of many partners and the dedication of State Park staff," said State Parks Director Christy Tafoya. "Visitors will be able to enjoy these great improvements for many years to come."

For more information on YOUR New Mexico State Parks, please visit our website at www.nmparks.com or call 1-888-nmparks.



Front row L to R: Alan Vigil, General Contractor, Rivercrest Construction, Christy Tafoya, Director of NM State Parks, Rob Love, NM State Parks Architect (Ret.), Felix Espinoza, Advanced Environmental Solutions, Mark Brown, Bluewater Lake State Park Superintendent and Matthias Sayer, Energy Minerals and Natural Resources Deputy Secretary cut the ribbon in front of the new Visitor Center at Bluewater Lake State Park.



David Griego, holding the ribbon, and Jeremy Lewis, right, with the Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department's Energy Conservation and Management Division answer questions about the first electric vehicle charging station at Bluewater Lake State Park.

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Conditions are Right for Adventure at Your New Mexico State Parks!

The Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department provides resource protection and renewable energy resource development services to the public and other state agencies.

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