

**NEWS** from Friends of the Bosque del Apache  
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### Bosque Friends Commit \$500 to Parkview Outdoor Classroom

Friends of the Bosque del Apache has committed \$500 toward Parkview Elementary's project to create a schoolyard habitat to use as an Outdoor Classroom. The Friends' check for \$250 was delivered this week, along with a pledge of an additional \$250 to be contributed "at a future date when actual construction and/operation of the Classroom begins."

The Friends' contribution is in addition to a \$7,500 seed grant awarded to Parkview by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to begin development on the Outdoor Classroom project.

In a letter accompanying the Friends contribution, president Paul White said: "The Friends believe Parkview Elementary's project to create a Schoolyard Habitat for use as an outdoor classroom is a terrific idea. We also believe the effort is consistent with the educational mission of the Friends."

An interview with Parkview teacher Jennifer Keller published July 10 in El Defensor Chieftain inviting public participation described the project: "The space will incorporate opportunities for students to study science and nature from a multi-disciplinary approach that would include creative writing and journaling. From the initial idea of creating a model watershed with a river fed by run-off from the roof and drainpipe, other ideas are flowing like water from a spring."

White's letter, addressed to Keller and co-project initiator Kaerl Sloan, continues: "We commend you for your vision in seeing the need for multidisciplinary education about watershed issues and their interaction with wildlife habitat, and for your initiative in putting together community resources and leveraging the Parkview setting itself to create an exciting educational opportunity."

The 1000-plus member Friends of the Bosque del Apache is a non-profit support group organized in 1993 to support the Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge, and to promote appreciation and conservation of wildlife and habitat through environmental education and natural history.