

MetroABQ Real Estate Newsletter



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August/September

Walking UNM: Oh, the places you'll go!*

Touching a corner of the University

Lobo-to-Duck Pond Walking Tour





The UNM Greenspaces: Our Central Park

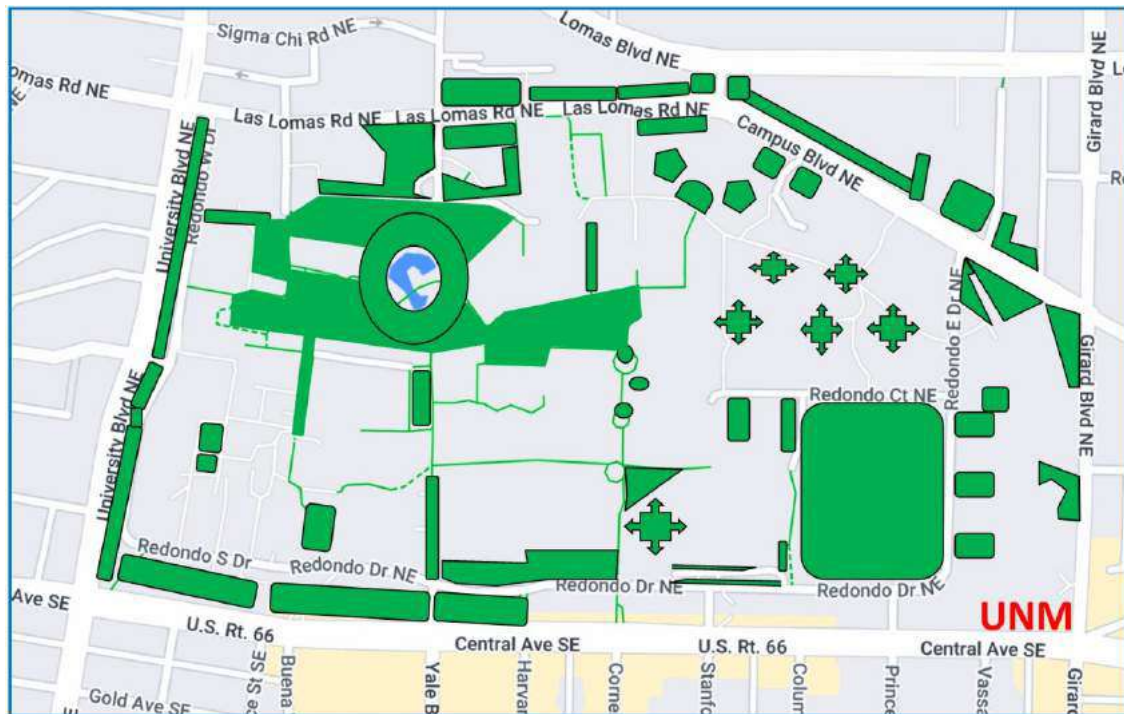
The University of New Mexico is a public university, with an open campus. The main campus sits on close to a whopping 800 acres, in the middle of Albuquerque. During the span of a week, almost 70,000 people come & go onto the campus. For those already using the campus, an additional draw is the lush gardens & extensive landscaping. For many, though, the draw of the landscape IS the destination.

Walking UNM... Beautifully, the largest university in the state has been planting trees & creating greenspaces on the campus since its inception 134 years ago (1889). Many of the grassy mini-parks that dot the university are connected. Without crossing more than a few local streets, you can traverse the outer rim of UNM--using Redondo Loop, Las Lomas Rd & Campus Blvd--with grass beneath your feet & shade above your head for much of the way.

An example of that green connectivity is a greenspace that begins just west of the UNM Bookstore, at Central Ave & Cornell Dr, & continues almost uninterrupted for the good part of a mile, up to the northwest corner of campus. Called the **Lobo-to-Duck Pond Walking Tour**, it's an easy walking mile from beginning to end, passing through a corner of the university steeped in history.

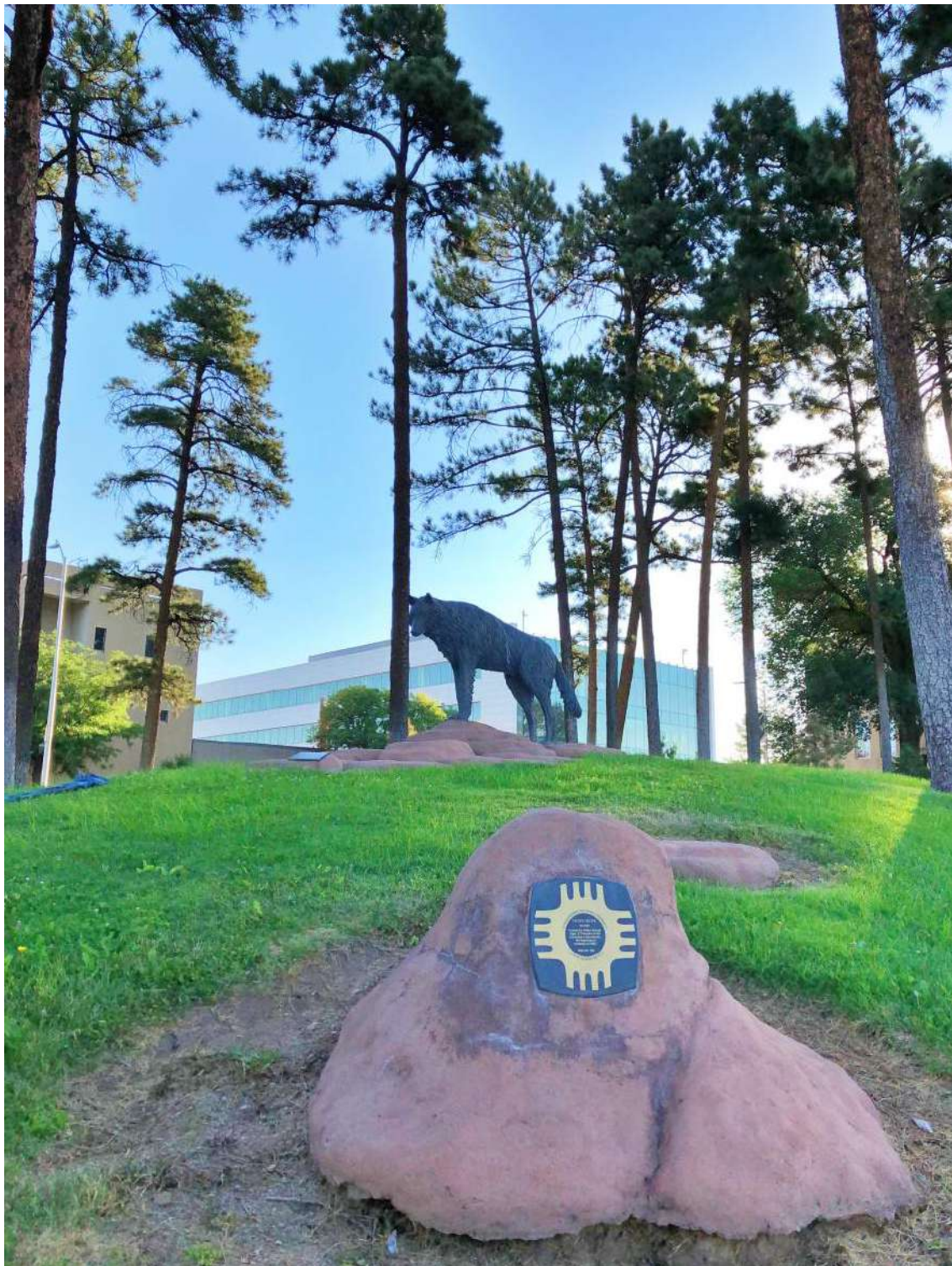
The top image is looking west toward the Mechanical Engineering Building, from the

Nuclear Sciences Lab. The engineering building is a [Brutalist](#) architectural design, & can be viewed from numerous points along the [Lobo-to-Duck Pond Walk](#). The image directly above is a section of the UNM Duck Pond. Notice the bridge in the right-hand side that connects the two halves of the pond--it's a good place to view all sorts of wildlife.



UNM Greenspaces

Above is a map of many of the greenspaces on the UNM Main Campus; it's not all inclusive, but provides an idea of shaded places to go, especially during the heated months. The blue "J" in the green circle is the UNM Duck Pond.



The Lobo-to-Duck Pond Stroll

You can start anywhere along the route; a good place is at the southwest corner of campus, on the corner of University Blvd & Central Ave, accessed by the inside loop, called Redondo Drive. Redondo encircles much of the campus, & is a good place for non-students to park--there are always pay spaces & it's free on weekends.

The image just above is the ubiquitous Lobo mascot, found in many areas of campus, like [outside Scholes Hall](#). This Lobo Sculpture stands in the expansive Tight Grove

(more on that later) in the SW corner of campus. She's a good place to meet when starting the [Lobo-to-Duck Pond](#) walk...



Above & Below:

From the Lobo sculpture, look east to the oldest building on campus. [Hodgin Hall](#) was originally completed in 1892 & was an imposing centerpiece for the fledgling university, seen above in its original style. [UNM Campus Histories](#) owns that image--it's a great little site.

However, Spanish Pueblo Revival soon became the official architectural style on campus & crazily, the University decided to remodel the building into that style, completing it in 1908. The front, which faces east, is seen below. Up close, you can see how the rounded arch of the upper Victorian windows were covered over by the linear lines of the Pueblo style. I love Spanish Pueblo interpretations; also though, I appreciated Hodgin's original look...



Sara Raynolds Hall & the (almost) 100 year old trees

[Sara Raynolds Hall](#), a single-story [Mayan Pueblo Revival](#) building surrounded by grassy greenspace, sits above. It was built for the expanding Home Economics Dept, opening its doors to women throughout the MetroABQ.

The Hall has "exaggerated, geometric buttresses" & unique 12-over-1 double hung wood windows. Below is some detail of the Hall: the leaded windows, Mayan-style parapets & the etched designs. It's a great building built in 1920 that still looks classy.

Campus Histories: Sara Raynolds Hall is surrounded by Parson's Grove, named after early UNM Financial Secretary Josephine Parsons, who served for 34 years starting from 1894. The landscape includes several dozen evergreens including the largest cedar on campus.

Parson's Grove was planted starting in 1928, so the trees & their canopy are closer to 95 years old. There looks to be five remaining centenary Ponderosa Pines in front of the building & a few on the west side. The Grove is actually 2.3 acres, spreading from Central Ave to Redondo, to the east of the also historic Communications & Journalism Building.





The Courtyard that Time Forgot...

Across the parking lot heading west from Sara Reynolds Hall is a small, interesting courtyard. It sits behind on the east side of the Art Annex building (1925), overlooking Central Ave/Route 66. In the early days of the university, it was a tradition for the graduating class to leave something behind. The benches & monuments in the courtyard are what remains of these gifts to the university, above with Route 66 in the background. There's an on-site [map/legend](#) to peruse, which provided a bit more about each bench.



Who doesn't enjoy a good sit? Nobody.

In that vein, future graduates created more seating around campus, using stumps from trees that had died. An example on the Lobo-Pond walk is on the west side of the [Graduate Art Annex](#), seen above. The stern-backed chair, with **Class of '22** on the back, sits at the very top of the Tight Grove hill, & gazes out toward the SW corner of campus.

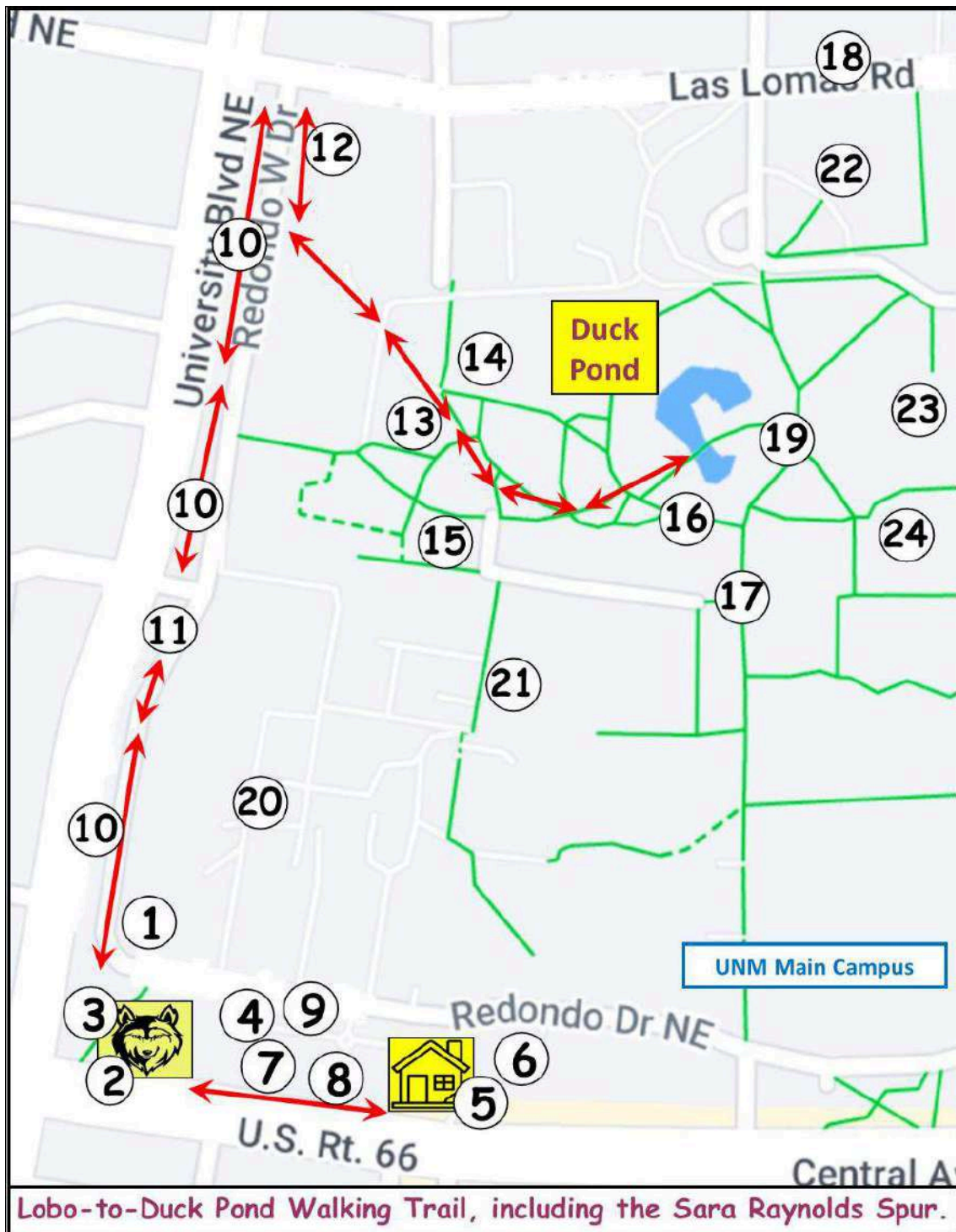
You will find these seemingly random chairs enjoying a second life in other areas of

campus, where trees once stood. One of them, below, can be sat upon in the Duck Pond Grove.





Enlarged area below of UNM's
Lobo-to-Duck Pond Trail



Lobo-to-Duck Pond Walk -- Key.

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Ferris Engineering Building | 2. Lobo sculpture |
| 3. Tight Grove (~2 acres) | 4. Hodgkin Hall |
| 5. Sara Raynolds Hall | 6. Parson's Grove (2.3 acres) |
| 7. A Good Place for a Sit | 8. Graduate Art Annex |
| 9. Mexican Centennial Gift | 10. Lobo Trail Greenspace |
| 11. The Estufa | 12. Parking - Free Weekends. |
| 13. Alumni Memorial Chapel | 14. Scholes Hall |

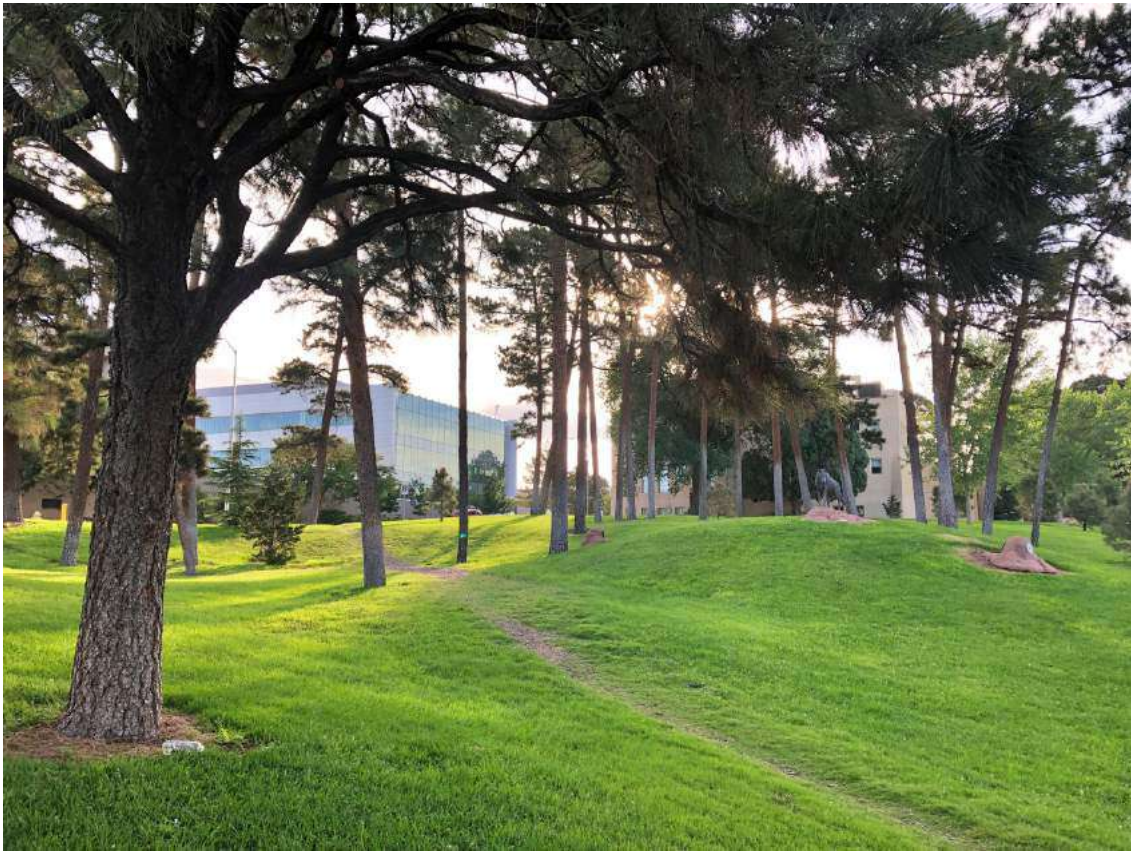
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|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 15. Portal to Duck Pond Grove | 16. Art: Abstract Grove Sculpture |
| 17. Art: Center of the Universe | 18. Art: Modulator |
| 19. Art: Artist George Ricki | 20. Art: Orb |
| 21. Art: Cubicón | 22. President's House |
| 23. Zimmerman Library | 24. Smith Plaza |



Centennial Gift From Mexico

When UNM turned 100 in 1989, Mexico wanted to help celebrate, so it donated the unnamed Mexican Pergola in 1991, above. It sits on the edge of the Tight Grove, on the west side of the Graduate Art Annex building. Below is the plaque providing the architect's name & other tidbits; [en inglés](#).





The Tight Grove

Directly above is an image of the Tight Grove taken this summer--the Lobo is at the top of its hill on the right side, middle; image above that is the Tight Grove Lobo posing in Winter.

Sitting on almost 2 acres in the southwest corner of the UNM Main Campus, the Tight Grove probably has a few 116 year old trees still standing guard: Rio Grande Valley cottonwoods & mountain ponderosa were planted by the student body in 1908, presided over by President Tight, mentioned earlier.

Tight Grove is a wide & grassy greenspace that starts lower on the corner of campus, & ascends up a grassy slope to Hodgkin Hall; it's one of the main walking entrances into the campus. At the top of the knoll, turning around facing west, the mesa horizon-line on the far side of the Metro is so straight, it seems to cut the scene into two distinct parts.



Lobo Trail Greenspace & The Estufa

The Lobo Trail Greenspace runs between University Blvd on one side & Redondo Dr on the other, & travels up the left side of the map to the NW corner of campus, almost a half a mile.

About halfway up the Lobo Trail stands the Estufa. You'll know you've found it when you come across the impressive copse of Desert Willow trees, on the south side of the building, above. The Estufa sits on the corner of Martin Luther King Jr & University Blvds--I passed it 100 times & didn't notice it: a smallish building with prominent viga beams & a wavy cool roofline parapet. Early on, President Tigh had a plan to introduce Spanish Pueblo Revival as the main style of architecture to the campus; the Estufa is an excellent example. The building itself was built in 1908 & modeled after the [Santo Domingo Kiva](#).

"The Estufa's exterior has been preserved extremely well. However, no one knows what is on the inside except for Pi Kappa Alpha & Beta Delta Chapter members & selective others from around the nation. Very few people have stepped foot within the building, & those who have that lucky opportunity are sworn to secrecy about what occurs inside the building." -from [Timeline UNM](#).

The Estufa past & present: directly below is the present day Estufa; below that, how it looked 116 years ago.



The Estufa, above, after completion in 1908. Notice that there are no other buildings around. Today, one hundred sixteen years later, it's been altered for the times, & is now surrounded by several neighborhoods housing thousands of people, like historic [Spruce Park](#), just across the street.



The Duck Pond Glade

If you're still following the [Lobo-to-Duck Pond](#) Trail: after the Estufa, continue heading north on the Lobo Greenspace to Las Lomas Rd, which is the NW corner of the UNM Main Campus. Turning around & heading back on the same greenspace for about 100 steps should take you to the corner of another green patch of space on the east side of Redondo--it's just a sliver of grass at the end of a long parking lot, but it leads into a densely gladed area of the campus.

The Duck Pond Glade sits at the intersection of several different car-free walking paths that crisscross campus. It's more than an acre of rolling little hills & plenty of very mature shade trees & gardens. The Alumni Memorial Chapel sits on one end, above, & is a great Mission architecture building in the Pueblo Revival style, with two bells on belfry, which is nicely over the top. The Chapel is a memorial to alumni who gave their lives in our nation's wars.

Historic [Scholes Hall](#), detailed wall work below, was designed by architect John Gaw Meem, & is another example of Pueblo Revival architecture. Meem's design was modeled after the 1692 [San Estevan Del Rey Mission Church](#) at [Acoma Pueblo](#). It sits prominently on the north side of the glade.





The more you walk around, the more you discover about the campus. With all the converging paths, there are many ways to enter the Duck Pond Glade, one of them is above. From the south side of the glade, it's a discreet portal between two buildings; attempting to find it can be a fun challenge.

Below is an abstract sculpture found in the glade of the Duck Pond Glade.





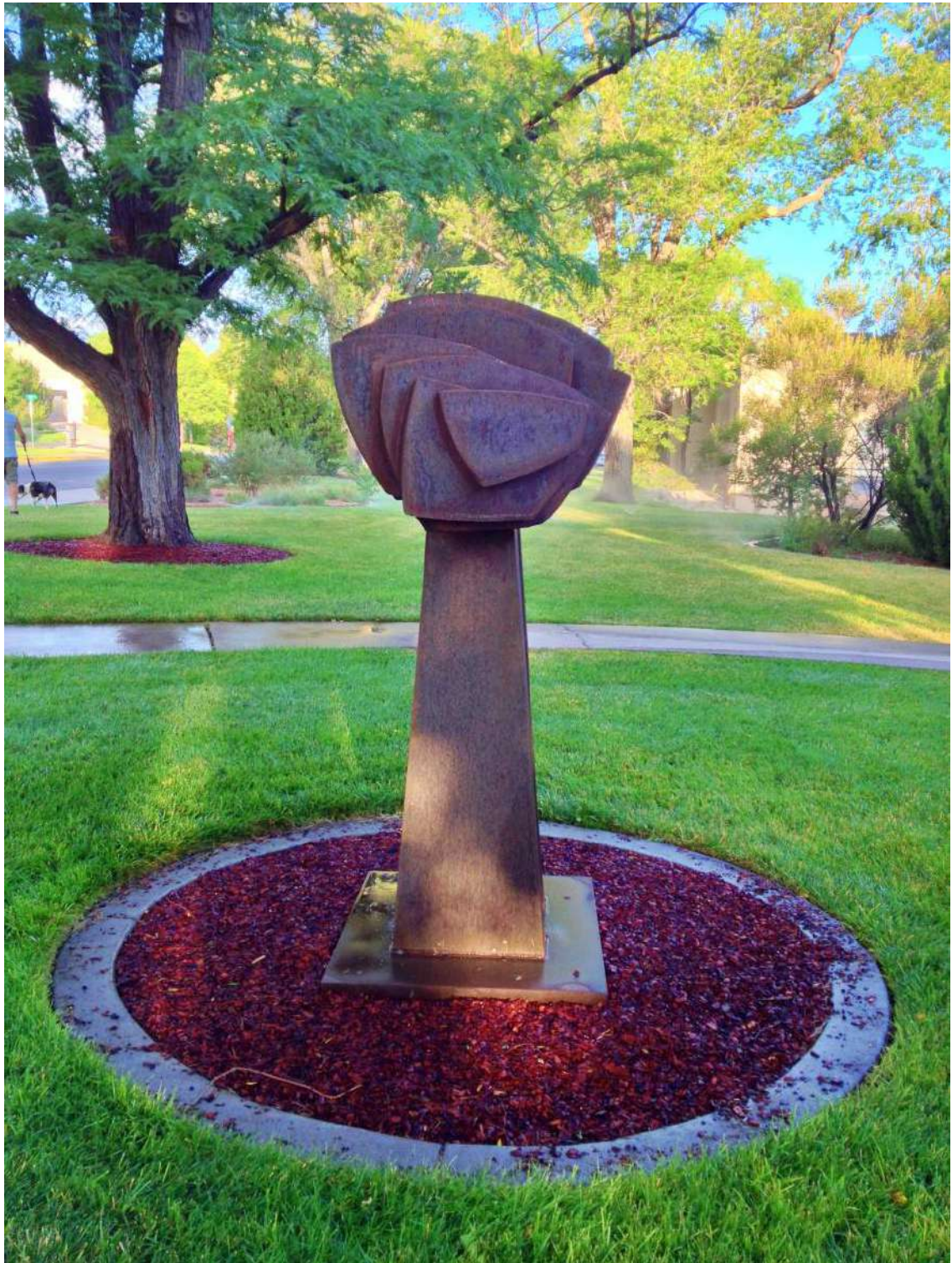
Center of The Universe

Speaking of art...Campus art is found everywhere & often in unexpected places. The walk-through concrete sculpture above, called [Center of the Universe](#) by Bruce Nauman, sits just south of--& can be seen from--the Duck Pond. The artwork was highly controversial when it was unveiled in 1988.

From Campus Histories: "This tower of concrete that juts out above, below, & to all sides has seen so much anger & outrage, that sometimes it's hard to believe." It was graffitied, & even picketed by angry students, teachers & regular MetroABQ citizens. The rancor has obviously died down...& still it sits.

Just below is a steel sculpture called Modulator, by Ed Rivera, which sits outside the former Raymond Johnson Gallery on Las Lomas Rd; the gallery was also designed by [John Gaw Meem](#). If you go: it's a .2 mile walk back to the Pond from the sculpture. Below that is a kinetic steel sculpture that spins with the wind, by George Ricki; it can be found just east of the Duck Pond.

Other artwork of note on the Trail or relatively adjacent: [an Orb](#) in front of Centennial Library & [Cubicion](#), in the Rose Garden just south of the Pond.







The Duck Pond

Wending your way across the grove, you'll find yourself at the fabulous Duck Pond. In winter hundreds of migrating birds--including a dozen species of ducks--make this oasis their temporary home. In the heat of the summer, usually about 20 remain. But do they have fun, it seems.

The Duck Pond can be noisy from the honking of the homesteading summer ducks, the sounds of the large waterfall, & numerous aerators keeping it healthy. Turtles live in the pond in great numbers, along with plenty of trout, minnows & other aquatics. Early morning is a great time to visit, as there's fewer or no other humans around, & the wildlife is friskier.





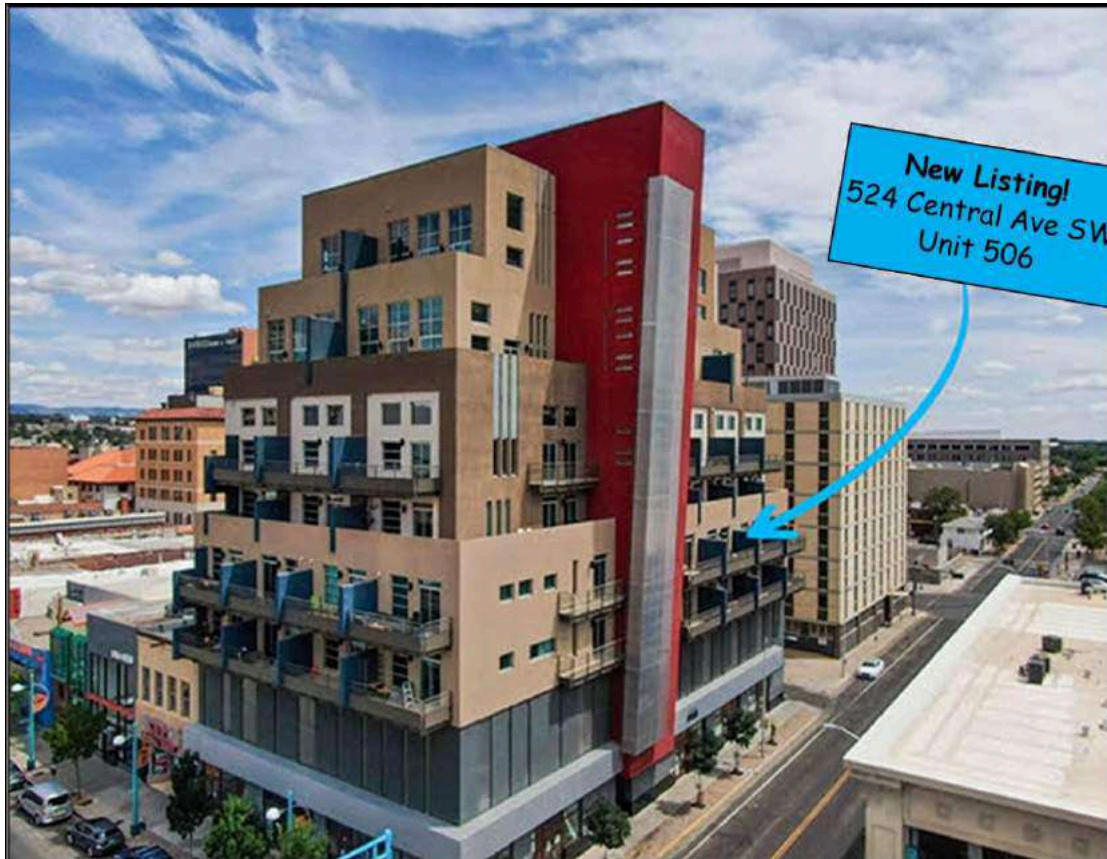
If you started at Sara Reynolds Hall, over to the Lobo sculpture in Tight's Grove, up the Lobo trail to the NW corner of Campus, then zig & zagging your way through the Duck Pond Glade to the fabulous Duck Pond itself, you've walked approximately one mile. Congratulations!

Now it's time to relax. A notable greenspace around the Duck Pond includes the President's residence, above, which sits just NE of the pond. The Zimmerman Library Plaza is the 1st place you'll come to heading east from the pond, seen below. Finally but not least, the Student Union Building (SUB) is just around the corner heading east from the pond, & Smith Plaza is a newly-re-created greenspace that stretches from the historic [Zimmerman Library](#) to the SUB. The image two below is one of the new Smith Plaza shade structures--a mushroom-design created by [Pascetti Steel Design](#), a local fabricating company.



Whew! Thank you for reading & for making it this far. It's a packed amount of info about a small section of the University of New Mexico Campus. See you in October!

*As you probably know, the title of this essay "[Oh, the places you'll go](#)" was borrowed from a poem & book created by the inimitable Dr. Seuss, a lifetime ago in 1990. Thx!



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