

MetroABQ Real Estate Newsletter

Including Rio Rancho, Corrales, Placitas, Atrisco Valley, Los Lunas & the East Mountains.

November

Fall Placitas Garden Tour '21

The Wild Horses of Placitas

MetroABQ Outside Art Revisit



The [Placitas Garden Tour](#) took place this fall after a year hiatus. It was a great opportunity to explore the area & see some private gardens & greenspaces in the rural village a few minutes north of Albuquerque. As always, the architecture of some of these often grand residences is another huge draw.

Above, standing at a rock labyrinth up in the Placitas Foothills, the north face of the Sandia Mountains sits prominent in the background. Following a sign between houses led to a clearing with a large stone maze; the puzzle consists of people-sized walking

paths. Not listed on the Placitas Garden Tour, it was a worthwhile surreal side stop. Here's a completely different [Placitas Labyrinth...](#)



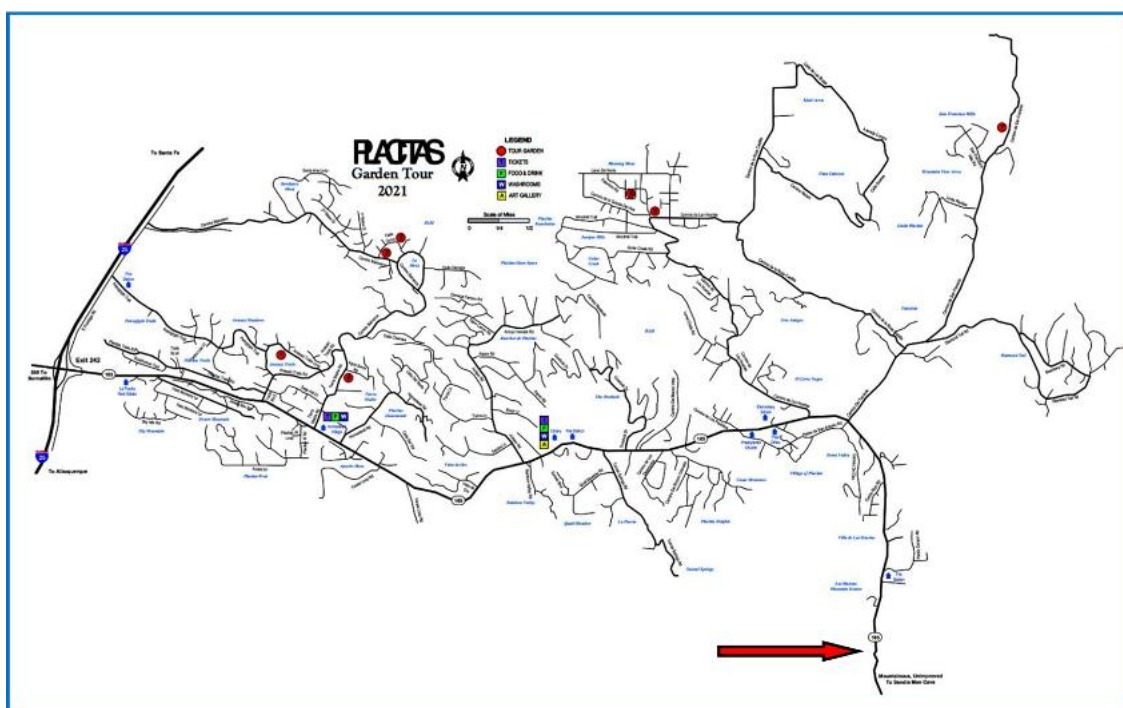


On generally one acre+ homesites, properties in Placitas enjoy living on a large swath of the NW Foothills of the Sandia Mountains--see the map below. The one-day-only tour introduced seven diverse gardens nicely scattered across Placitas, bringing us to many different sections of the 30-square-mile town. Distracting views & roads that wound in & out of canyons & along hillsides made getting to each home part of the adventure.

Above are a few of the homes from the tour, with their gardens & greenspaces.

There was a lot to see & learn. An Anasazi Trails home kept [honeybee hives](#) in a corner of their garden. A well-stocked [fall greenhouse garden](#) happily produces flowers in the La Mesa subdivision.

There was a [blue chicken coop](#) at a garden in the San Francisco Hills that also had cool [vertical gardens](#) & grew [Black Beauty Beefcake Heirloom](#) tomatoes that look to be the tastiest on the planet. The 3.5 acre property is called the [Raven Hollow Garden](#) & they nicely had folks stationed at various locations to describe what they do. An interesting & impromptu lesson in a [trash can root cellar](#) attracted quite a crowd. Finally, this [rooster & dog added beautifully](#) to the day at Raven Hollow, although they kinda blend together in the photo...

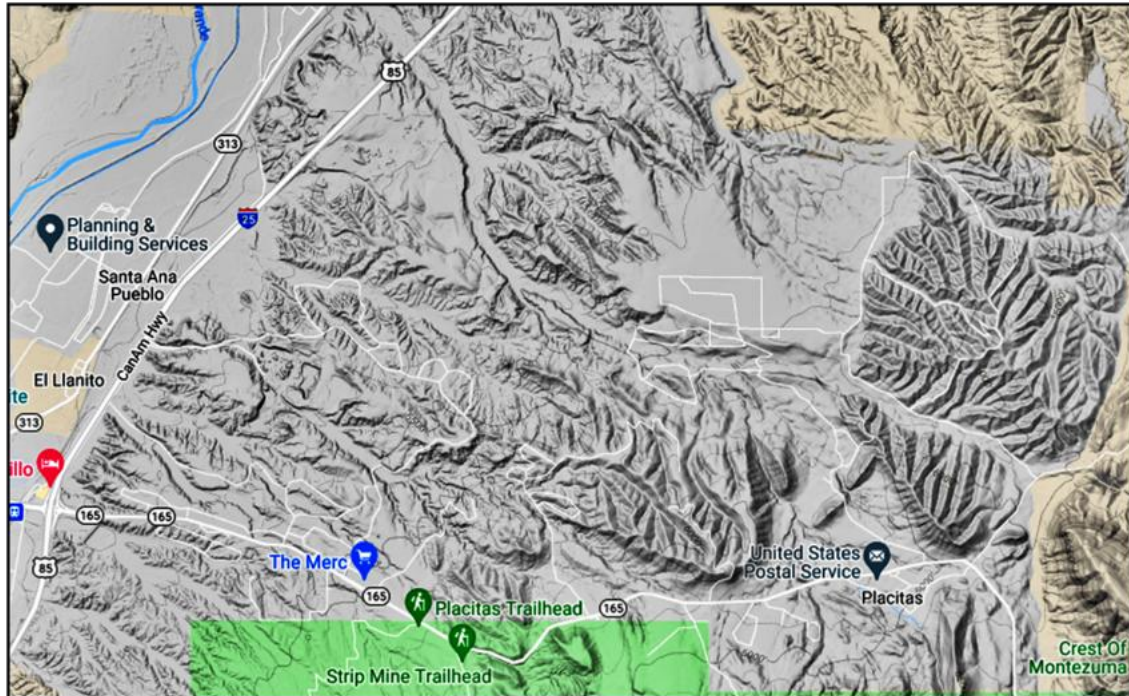


The Streets of Placitas

Squint your eyes at the image above & the Placitas streets read like a disjointed map of our circulatory system. See the topographic map below for the visual reason why. The grey veins are natural waterway rivulets carved into the landscape of the NW Sandia Mountains, creating the Foothills; driving up & down them is an event.

The heart of the area--with decades old adobe houses--is the small [historic Village of Placitas](#), which sits a few miles east of I-25. It has a rich history; the [Sandia Man Cave](#) outside Placitas, which documents 10,000 years of local habitation, is one example.

The town is bordered by Open Space, BLM land & National Forest lands, & is the gateway to the back side of the Sandia Mountain: Route 165 from I-25 snakes scenically eastward through the Village, & a bit further becomes a rugged dirt road that switchbacks along Las Huertas Canyon up, up & up to the Sandia Crest & ski area. Dozens of hiking/biking trails originate from this route. During non-winter weather, it's a great part of an afternoon roundabout trip up the mountain & back down the other side. The red arrow on the map above points to the Back Road Up to the Crest.



Over the last 12 months, 156 homes sold in the Placitas area.
The highest sale was \$1,055,000 & the average home sold for \$592,000.



The Wild Horses of Placitas

Looking at the maps, if I was a horse that chose to remain wild, I'd live in the

Placitas Foothills. Reading about [The Wild Horses of Placitas](#), I knew they existed, but were too stealthy to be seen. I was wrong. It doesn't take too long driving (carefully!) around the Placitas roads to encounter them aplenty...

I've seen the horses in several areas of the sprawling township, but mostly along Camino de las Huertas & all the way up onto Mustang Mesa, where they have some stables for shelter. A late spring day recently, showing houses on Mustang Mesa, a slow procession of the wild horses casually passed by, unafraid.

You gotta love the town.







MetroABQ Art Revisited

Luckily, folks fill me in. A friend wrote that [Tree of Life](#)--the serene tile sculpture perfectly situated on the frenetic corner of 4th St & Montañó Blvd--was created by her excellent friend Beverley Magennis. Beverley has an amazing oeuvre; reading all about her, one piece that caught my eye (as a Realtor) is this fabulous [Tile Tiny House](#).

I was glad [Joan Weissman](#) took the time to fill me in. Joan is a wonderfully prolific locally-based artist with a cool [international resumé](#). The image above is called "Symphony" & lives in the Popejoy Hall Fine Arts Center at the University of New Mexico.

Another friend provided the name of the artist who created the [quirky abstract sculpture](#) in Quigley Park last issue. Her brother-in-law, Larry Bell, has a studio in Taos & his artwork is installed all over the place, including the ABQ Museum. His website is [Larrybell.com](#), & is fun to explore.

Speaking of quirky, you're in the great Southwest, so you never know when you'll come across another quirky artist. Recent MetroABQ transplants & friends Kim & Mike pointed me to [Kim Gulino's site](#), & honestly, I couldn't look away. The image below is "Ukobach" & can be found on Kim's website. If you see them in NW Heights, welcome them to their new home.



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My 3-D Virtual Tours



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