

Good neighbors: How El Pasoans saved Thunder Canyon

Posted: Monday, October 6, 2014 9:21 am | *Updated: 9:34 am, Mon Oct 6, 2014.*
Janaé Reneaud Field Frontera Land Alliance | [0 comments](#)

Thunder Canyon is a 26-acre arroyo that is now protected and preserved for all time. Thunder Canyon is a 26-acre arroyo on the western slopes of the Franklin Mountains that is preserved and protected in perpetuity.

The canyon had been owned by a private development company. For three years, neighbors living near the canyon worked with the city of El Paso to create a PID – a Public Improvement District – and to purchase the property from the developer.

Essentially, the 93 households surrounding Thunder Canyon agreed to tax themselves to pay off the purchase price; the land now belongs to the city of El Paso and is listed as a natural park. Then the Frontera Land Alliance worked with the city and with the neighbors to deploy a conservation easement on the canyon so that its scenic vistas and native wildlife habitat would be preserved in perpetuity. Frontera is responsible for monitoring and defending the conservation values of Thunder Canyon.

A PID with a conservation easement is an unusual and creative multi-party approach to natural resource preservation. The 93 members of the PID are certainly the heroes. It couldn't have been accomplished without cooperation between the builders, the city and the neighbors. The bottom line is that the homeowners in the PID are paying back the city more than \$500,000 for acquiring the land.

Please join Frontera in celebrating a decade of conservation on Saturday, Nov. 1 at Thunder Canyon. It's a great opportunity to learn about a PID, how a conservation easement works and how good neighbors can work together to protect and preserve our natural treasures.

For more information, contact Janaé Reneaud Field, executive director of the Frontera Land Alliance, at (915) 351-8352 or email janae@FronteraLandAlliance.org.