

PRESS RELEASE

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**NATIONAL MUSEUM EXHIBITION FEATURING
SANTA FE'S GALISTEO BASIN PRESERVE OPENS TODAY**

*Washington, D.C.'s National Building Museum highlights
innovative New Mexico conservation community*

Santa Fe, NM — The National Building Museum exhibition featuring Santa Fe County's Galisteo Basin Preserve opens today in Washington, D.C. *Green Community*, the first major exhibition in the United States to explore the complexities of creating and sustaining healthy communities, introduces projects from around the world where citizens, leaders, designers and developers are working together on innovative planning solutions.

"The minute I saw the comparison between "business as usual" development and the better alternative of the Galisteo Basin Preserve's plans to contain development within 300 acres, preserving the vast majority of an ecologically significant landscape, I knew we had to share it with our visitors as part of the exhibition," said Susan Piedmont-Palladino, the National Building Museum curator for *Green Community*.

The National Building Museum chose to include the Galisteo Basin Preserve as an example of landscape-scale conservation development. The 13,500-acre Galisteo Basin Preserve combines an ambitious program of land conservation and restoration—97 percent of the Preserve will be protected as open space—with an innovative plan for compact, environmentally responsible community development. According to Piedmont-Palladino, the Museum was also interested in how "the proposal for the Galisteo Basin Preserve community combines two design strategies that are too often kept apart: neo-traditional town planning (often described as New Urbanism) and contemporary green building."

"The National Building Museum's enthusiastic support for our vision is deeply affirming," said Ted Harrison, president and founder of Commonweal Conservancy, the Santa Fe nonprofit organization spearheading the Galisteo Basin Preserve initiative. "This exhibit challenges us to think differently about how we create communities with a capacity for—and commitment to—sustaining the fragile relationship between the built environment and the natural world. We are proud that the plan for the Galisteo Basin Preserve can help inform this larger conversation."

Open through October 25, 2009, the *Green Community* exhibition challenges professionals, policy makers, and the general public to address questions of definition and practice. That is:

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What kind of community is green? and How can we make communities green?

The exhibition's first section explores planning strategies such as "brownfield" redevelopment, multi-modal transit, efficient natural resources use, land conservation, and waste reduction. These strategies are illustrated by example communities in the United States and around the world, including Highland Gardens Village in Denver, Colorado; Bogota, Columbia; Masdar City, Abu Dhabi, UAE; Greensburg, Kansas; and New Mexico's Galisteo Basin Preserve.

The Galisteo Basin Preserve is highlighted in the exhibition's "Land Conservation" section. More than 12,000 acres will be protected as open space, with the majority publicly accessible. Concurrently, a walkable, mixed-use, mixed-income community known as the Village at the Galisteo Basin Preserve is proposed as an alternative to "business-as-usual" development, which too often fragments habitat, carves up open space, and irresponsibly uses water and energy resources. The Village will incorporate such strategies as community-scale water recycling and rain catchment, dark skies protection, multiple transit options, and renewable energy use.

"The Galisteo Basin Preserve is a robust and provocative example of how integrated design can be applied at a village scale to intentionally develop a green community," said Dana Bourland, senior director of Green Communities for Enterprise Community Partners, which has provided critical funding for Commonweal Conservancy's work and serves as a resource to the *Green Community* exhibition. "The resulting community plan is beautiful, environmentally just by respecting the natural resources of the region, and socially equitable through the provision of housing for people of all incomes."

Green Community's second section examines technologies and systems that can improve the health of communities and their landscapes. Organized by the natural elements of air, water, earth, and fire, this section looks at such things as harnessing wind and solar power, controlling urban heat islands, and managing water resources.

About Commonweal Conservancy and the Galisteo Basin Preserve

Commonweal Conservancy is a nonprofit conservation-based community-development organization committed to integrating the purposes of environmental protection and community building. The group assembles properties that protect precious open space and provide for other public needs, such as affordable housing, schools, and economic development. For more information, please visit www.commonwealconservancy.org. The Galisteo Basin Preserve, a large-scale land conservation and community development initiative in Santa Fe County, is Commonweal's flagship project. For more information, visit www.galisteobasinpreserve.com

About the National Building Museum

The National Building Museum is America's leading cultural institution dedicated to exploring and celebrating architecture, design, engineering, construction, and planning. Chartered by Congress in 1980 and open to the public since 1985, the Museum has become a vital forum for exchanging ideas and information about the built environment through its exhibitions, education programs, and publications. The Museum is located at 401 F Street NW, Washington, D.C. For more information, please visit www.nbm.org.

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