Paseo Corridor

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INSPIRATION: GREEN CORRIDOR

The proposed design for the Paseo del Pueblo Norte Corridor synthesized the charrette suggestions, a study of Taos history, an analysis of existing conditions, and a review of precedent to create the Paseo Green Corridor.

Acequia History
Acequias have been widely used in Taos as a community oriented water distribution method for over 400 hundred years. The Taos Valley Acequia Association and the Taos Pueblo were able to reach an understanding about water rights in 2006.

However the management of historic acequias in the Taos core, particularly the springs on either side of Paseo del Pueblo Sur that feed the Spring Ditch, have recently had diminished flow, resulting in legal action.

The restoration of the acequia along Paseo, which would tie an acequia that currently dead ends in Kit Carson Park with a restored spring south of Placitas, would help to move the debate about water management in Taos in the right direction.

Existing Conditions: Paseo del Pueblo Norte Corridor.

Swale Benefits
- Integrated system of stormwater management within the right of way
- Volume reductions in stormwater through infiltration
- Captures and cleans remaining water flow before entering into groundwater
- Key linking component in development of local green infrastructure network
- Enhanced economic development along the transit corridor
- Improved pedestrian experience along the street right of way
- Improves local air quality

Existing acequias near the plaza in need of maintenance.

Acequia precedent: Japan.
Acequia precedent: Argentina.

Swale precedent.
Swale Design
A vegetated strip of land will run between the acequia and the road, consisting of trees, shrubs, grasses, and a naturally channelized landscape to allow for efficient stormwater flow on Paseo from Civic Plaza Drive to Quesnel. The stormwater will be filtered before being introduced into the spring. At crosswalks, a steel plate will function as a bridge over the swales, with mounted LED lights at the street edge for safety.
ACEQUIA RESTORATION

The acequia restores historic water management patterns and also creates a linear green corridor composed of water, seating, shade, and stormwater management.

Acequia/ Swale Crossings
The acequia from Civic Plaza to Placitas would have ten streets or crosswalk crossings where the flow would be directed into a pipe.