



DPU Scoop



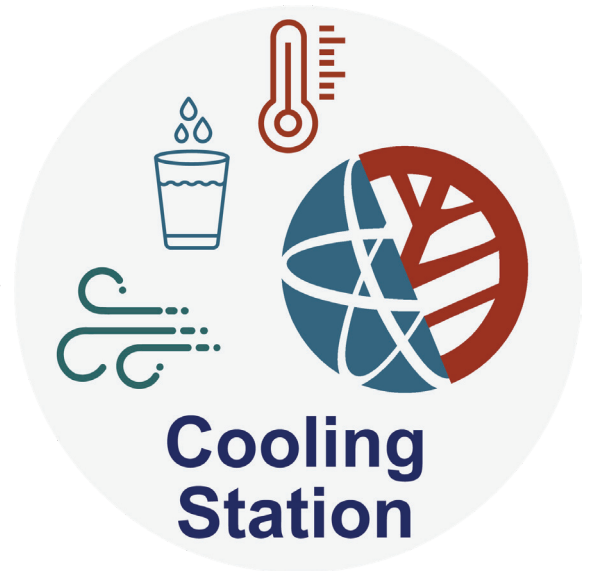
IN THIS EDITION

- Stay cool inside and out
- Have you seen the elusive gray fox?
- July is Lake Appreciation Month
- Download the Los Alamos Now app
- DPU is a public utility!

Stay Cool Inside and Out

“Extreme heat” is a period of high heat and humidity with temperatures above 90 degrees for at least two days. Extreme heat affects us all. Mitigating the impacts of extreme heat can be challenging for those without air conditioning, but even those with cooled air need to make sure their system isn’t being overworked. Here are some practical measures to help you beat the heat.

- Close your windows and window treatments during the daylight hours.
- Use fans strategically: move air from cooler areas to warmer areas. Put a fan in a window to blow in cooler night air.
- Set your ceiling fans to rotate counterclockwise in the summer.
- Using room fans with AC will let you set AC 4 degrees warmer without impacting comfort.
- Run your dryer at night or hang your clothes outside.
- Take cool showers and baths.
- Park in shady places.
- Wear loose, lightweight, light-colored clothing.
- Visit a Cooling Station. Cooling Stations are public locations (think libraries, the Municipal Building, grocery stores, Senior Centers, etc.) where you can access air conditioning and drinking water in order to get relief from the heat.
- Seal air leaks.
- Install cellular shades, window films, or blackout curtains for added thermal insulation.
- Set your heat pump at a constant temperature to avoid ramping up and overstressing the unit.
- Insulate, insulate, insulate!



Cooling Station

CONSERVATION



Have you seen the elusive gray fox?

The gray fox is smaller than most people think, averaging 10–15 pounds in size. They tend to live in forested and brushy areas, often found in drier piñon/juniper habitats. It typically dens in wood or brush piles, rocky outcrops, or hollow trees and will often reuse these dens from year to year.

They eat mostly mice, voles, bird eggs, rabbits, insects and native fruits such as blueberries, blackberries, chokecherries and black cherries. Sometimes, they bury food for later use, especially around the den site, when raising their pups.

In the spring, gray foxes may den underneath a porch or in a yard while raising their pups. Foxes generally use more than one den to raise their pups and may move them as many as 2–4 times. They’ll usually leave by the end of June at the latest. These dens aren’t used during other seasons.

Gray foxes are not observed frequently due to their reclusive nature and more nocturnal habits. They tend to be active from the late evening hours until dawn. They will readily climb trees, jumping from branch to branch while hunting or for protection. They have rotating wrists and semi-retractable claws that help them climb up high to den, forage or escape predators.

The presence of a fox should not be perceived as a problem and foxes need not be feared. The gray fox frequently falls prey to bobcats and coyotes.

To learn more about the gray fox and living with other wildlife, visit the NM Game & Fish website at www.lacnm.com/NMGF.

DOWNLOAD THE **LOS ALAMOS NOW** APP TODAY

- Notify DPU of utility problems
- Report issues on public roads & spaces
- Pay utility bills
- Find parks & facilities
- And more!

Available through the App Store (iOS) & Google Play (Android)

JULY:

Lake Appreciation Month

Lakes, like all water sources, are vital. Here at DPU we rely on two reservoirs (man-made lakes) to power our Abiquiu and El Vado hydroelectric plants.

Other water utilities access lakes as sources of potable (or drinking) water. These sources can be fraught with water quality issues—such as nutrient loading, PFAS, and turbidity—and water quantity concerns.

Please note that DPU does not utilize lake water for its potable supply, though the Los Alamos Reservoir was used for such purposes by the Ranch School in the 1930s. This 2-acre lake is, however, a backup water source that can be used to fill DPU’s non-potable water tank. Additionally, it is frequented by hikers for end-of-trail rest, recreation and relaxation.

We encourage you to go visit a lake in our region, have some fun, take in your surroundings, and work on the Lake Appreciation Month bingo card, which is available for download at ladpu.com/lakesBINGO.



DPU is a Public Utility!

Unlike an investor-owned utility, DPU focuses on service and community involvement rather than profits. DPU is a department under the Los Alamos County government, owned by the community, and governed by the Board of Public Utilities (BPU).

Consisting of five voting members appointed by the Los Alamos County Council, BPU is comprised of locals—they are customers of DPU, Los Alamos tax payers, and your neighbors.

The face of BPU has changed in the past year with three new members! Please welcome Chair Robert Gibson (7/1/2023), Matt Heavner (2/1/2024) and Jennifer Hollingsworth (7/1/2024), pictured left to right below.



BPU meetings are open to the public. The board meets on the first Wednesday of each month for work sessions and the third Wednesday of each month for regular meetings. All meetings are held at 5:30 p.m. in Council Chambers in the Los Alamos County Municipal Building at 1000 Central Ave. The public may attend in person or via Zoom. Meeting links can be found at ladpu.com/BPU.

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LOS ALAMOS
Department of Public Utilities

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