

- LEGEND**
- Boston Hill trail system
  - Boston Hill Open Space boundary
  - Road-trail easements
  - Major roads
  - Historic narrow gauge railroad grade
  - Trailhead   Bench
  - 20 Numbered trail junction signs

**BIRDS** Boston Hill and La Capilla wetlands have many of the same species seen along San Vicente Creek but have species that prefer the grassland environment. Some species which are possible to see here that you would less likely see at San Vicente Creek are, Great horned owl, White-throated swift, Rock wren, Canyon wren, Rufous-crowned sparrow, Black-throated sparrow, Black-headed grosbeak.

*These listings are not meant to be comprehensive and some birds may be seen only seasonally.*



# GREENWAYS

## Silver City, NM

- HIKING
- BIRDING
- NATURAL BEAUTY
- LOCAL HISTORY

LACAPILLA WETLANDS

*La Capilla trail*  
RICHARD MAHLER PHOTO

Maps and information for enjoying Silver City's Greenways Walking Trails

BOSTON HILL

*Boston Hill trail*  
PATRICIA TABER PHOTO

To La Capilla Trails ↓

SAN VICENTE CIENEGA

*San Vicente Creek trail*  
PATRICIA TABER PHOTO

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# SAN VICENTE CIENEGA

Directions to Greenways from the corner of Broadway and Bullard Streets:

San Vicente Creek take Bullard south 2 blocks to Mill St turn left and follow the dirt road to the trailhead under the Hwy 90 bridge.

To get to La Capilla and Boston Hill go west on Broadway to Cooper and turn left. At Spring Street turn right for one of the Boston Hill trailheads. Another trailhead and La Capilla are further South on Cooper St.

Map - Gila Conservation Education Center (GCEC)



**San Vicente Creek Trails**

- San Vicente Creek trail
- Creek crossing
- San Vicente trailheads
- Gila Conservation Education Center outdoor classroom

Distance in miles (between green dots)

San Vicente Creek is a wildlife corridor that leads from Chihuahuan desert scrub lands to oak/pinyon/ponderosa forest via a northern extension of the creek through the Town of Silver City to the Gila National Forest border. The ready availability of water is an attractant to migrating and nesting bird species. Likely bird sightings along San Vicente Creek are:

- |                               |                                |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Gambel's quail                | Western bluebird               |
| Mourning dove                 | Townsend's solitaire           |
| White-winged dove             | American robin                 |
| Red-tailed hawk               | Curve-billed thrasher          |
| Ladder-backed woodpecker      | Phainopepla                    |
| Northern flicker              | Ruby-crowned kinglet           |
| Black & Say's phoebe          | Canyon towhee                  |
| Western scrub jay             | Spotted towhee                 |
| Common raven                  | Chipping sparrow               |
| (more likely) Chihuahua raven | White-crowned sparrow          |
| Violet-green swallow          | Dark-eyed junco                |
| Juniper titmouse              | Summer tanager                 |
| Bridled titmouse              | Yellow & Yellow-rumped warbler |
| Bush-tit                      | Wilson's warbler               |
|                               | Lesser goldfinch               |
|                               | House finch, House sparrow     |

Rufous hummingbird  
ELROY LIMMER PHOTO



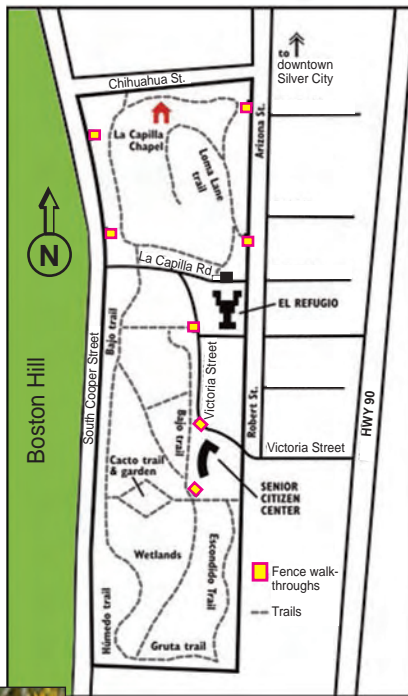
Noteworthy sightings in the San Vicente Creek area: Common black-hawk, Montezuma quail, Belted kingfisher, Western tanager.

# LACAPILLA WETLANDS

The trails in this area follow the creek and are located between the San Vicente and Boston Hill Greenways areas.

Trails are very easy walking along the brick-lined paths on almost level terrain. There are picnic tables and grills under shady trees (behind the Senior Center).

For BIRDS of this area see notes under Boston Hill map.



Map - Hidalgo Medical Services (HMS) La Vida Program



Queen butterfly  
ELROY LIMMER PHOTO

# HISTORY of LaCapilla

La Capilla is a 23-acre heritage park with walking trails and wetlands just a few blocks south of historic downtown Silver City between San Vicente Creek and Boston Hill. It is open from sunrise to sunset. The modern capilla (Spanish for small chapel) and trails are part of ongoing development by Silver City and civic groups. The original capilla graced Silver City's skyline above Chihuahua Hill in the late 1800s and early 1900s.



Gambel's quail  
ELROY LIMMER PHOTO

Check the Southwestern New Mexico Audubon website for more birding information, activities, downloadable maps, checklists and nearby birding spots:  
[www.swnmaudubon.org](http://www.swnmaudubon.org)

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# HISTORY of Boston Hill

Boston Hill is an abandoned mine lands property that was purchased by the Town of Silver City in 1999 to be preserved as open space. A series of three hills, ranging from 6,000 to 6,380 feet in elevation, Boston Hill got its name from the Massachusetts based "Boston Company" that made one of the first mining claims on the north face of the smallest hill in 1879. By 1883 the Boston Company sold the mine, but the name remains. Encompassing 550 acres, Boston Hill is part of the southernmost reach of the Silver City Range. It is a typical pinyon/juniper habitat that receives 18 inches of precipitation annually.

Silver ores were the primary focus of miners beginning in 1870 on Boston Hill. The completion of regional railroads in 1883 allowed for the construction of two on-site smelters that operated until 1907 and 1914 when the mining of silver ore tailed off in the area. In 1916 the attention turned to the mining of iron ore which was shipped to Pueblo, CO for smelting. Supply and demand for iron ore peaked during WWII and continued sporadically until mining on Boston Hill officially ended in the late 1970s. Today, according to an archeological study performed by the Town of Silver City, there are 13 vertical shafts, 55 open cuts, 383 prospects and 123 waste rock concentrations on Boston Hill.

San Vicente Creek is the main drainage for the 19 square mile Silver City watershed. It begins downtown at the confluence of Pinos Altos Creek (from the northeast) and Silva Creek (from the northwest). It flows south out of town where it ultimately recharges groundwater that Silver City uses for municipal drinking water. San Vicente Creek provides a beautiful green and shaded riparian corridor in a landscape that is primarily dry, sunny and often brown. Historically, the creek has been the site of many mill sites. Evidence from these mills, in the form of waste rock tailings piles, can still be seen along San Vicente Creek at the site of the former Silver City Reduction Works. This mill shut down in the 1940s but the by-products of its operations can still be seen on the west side of the creek in big, rusty looking orange rock piles. Today the trail along the creek provides excellent birding and wildlife habitat, hiking, biking, interpretive signage and relief from the sun.



San Vicente Creek  
DAN HINTZ PHOTO

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