Located on the edge of Acid Canyon, the Aquatic Center Trailhead provides access to the central portion of the Los Alamos Trail Network. Trails lead to Pueblo Canyon and the Pueblo Benches, to Walnut Canyon, and to Bayo Canyon. The routes offer easy hiking and easy to moderate mountain biking. The trails include the Acid Canyon, Ranch School, South Pueblo Bench, Pueblo Canyon Rim, and the Pueblo Canyon trails. Because of its central location, easy access, ample parking, and short and easy trails, this area is a great starting place to explore the County’s trail network.

FINDING THE AQUATIC CENTER TRAILHEAD
Finding the Trailhead: From 15th Street and Central Avenue in downtown Los Alamos, head west (towards the Jemez Mountains) on Central. In 0.4 miles, past Ashley Pond and the Mesa Public Library, turn right into the Aquatic Center parking area. Ample parking is available. The trailhead is just left of the entrance to the aquatic center.

SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE
A 58-mile network of trails links the foothills, canyons, and mesas in and around Los Alamos. Hikers, runners, horseback riders, mountain bikers, and other trail users delight in the variety of trails from which to choose. The trails offer a quick escape from the hectic pace in the town, a route to commute to work, an easy stroll or a physical challenge, the chance to observe wildlife, or simply soaking in the impressive views. The County Trail Network connects over 100 miles of trails on the surrounding Santa Fe National Forest and the adjacent Valles Caldera National Preserve.

USING LOS ALAMOS COUNTY OPEN SPACE
The Los Alamos County Trail Network is open to non-motorized use only.

RESOURCE PROTECTION
All cultural resources such as Ancestral Pueblo room blocks, pot sherds, petroglyphs, and historical artifacts are protected by Federal and State law. Let all cultural resources lie undisturbed.

SHARE THE TRAIL
These are multi-use trails for pedestrians, equestrians, and bicyclists. Bicyclists should yield to all other users.

DOGS IN LOS ALAMOS COUNTY OPEN SPACE
All dogs must be on a leash when within 100 yards of a trailhead. Dogs must be under voice and sight control at all times.

SAFETY
When exploring, please stay on marked trails. Always carry water, sunscreen, a hat, extra clothing, a flashlight, and a navigational aid.

Trailhead guides are available at major trailheads, the Los Alamos County Customer Care Center in the Municipal Building, the Los Alamos Chamber of Commerce, and online.

For more information, visit www.losalamosnm.us, then follow the links to Open Space and Trails.
**Acid Canyon Loop**

**Length:** 3.0 Miles  
**Elevation Gain:** 200 Feet  
**Fitness Level:** EASY  
**Features:** NATURE PONDEROSA PINE STANDS, ISOLATION WITHIN THE DOWNTOWN AREA  
**Trail Surface:** PACKED DIRT  
**Mountain Bike Skill Level:** CHALLENGING

Here’s one of the few short and easy hiking trips in Los Alamos. The loop is less than a mile and most of the loop follows a bedrock firebreak through beautiful open pine stands. The return leg uses a sheep trail built around 1920 by the Los Alamos Ranch School. All of this on the edge of downtown! From the kiosk, take the trail heading north. In a few yards, bear left, head downhill, and bear left again. In a minute come to a fire road near a hefty gate. Skirt around on the trail that goes right of the gate and rejoin the fire road. The road heads gradually downhill, then curls around to head east parallel to the drainage of Acid Canyon.

After passing a long bridge to the left, swing right and cross a small wooden bridge. Climb on a bedrock ramp, bear right, and in a few yards cross the drainage on a few bridge. Follow switchbacks up to the mesa top. At the entrance to Kinnikinnik Park, head straight to the trailhead or take a short detour through the park.

**Pueblo Rim/Canyon Loop**

**Length:** 7.5 Miles  
**Elevation Gain:** 1,800 Feet  
**Fitness Level:** DIFFICULT  
**Features:** HISTORIC TRAIL, DEEP CANYONS  
**Trail Surface:** PACKED DIRT, ASPHALT  
**Mountain Bike Skill Level:** THINK SAFETY

Pueblo Canyon is a deep gash in the Pajarito Plateau that runs through the center of Los Alamos. Trails follow the canyon bottom and the south rim, but the north rim is a sheer wall of orange volcanic tuff, speared as west from the Dallasadero about one million years ago. The south rim route offers stunning views of the canyon and the mountains of northern New Mexico, while the canyon trail passes through tall ponderosa pines in open stands. Also within the canyon are clusters of tent rocks created by dense rocks capping spires of tuff. This loop follows the rim, drops into the canyon on the appropriately named Zipline Trail, and picks up the Tent Rocks Trail to wind back to the west.

Head north on the Ranch School Trail past the entrance to Kinsinkink Park and down a broad switchback into Acid Canyon. Stay right at the junction with the Acid Canyon Trail, and then, just before dropping into a narrow canyon, bear right onto the Pueblo Rim/Canyon Trail. This trail follows a fence line and climbs four tight switchbacks before leveling out on a bench trail that continues for about a mile. Round the point of Graduation Canyon and pick up the trail with the same name, heading south and out of the canyon. In a few minutes, reach the paved Los Alamos Mesa Trail. Turn left and continue to near the end of that trail where the Pueblo Canyon Rim Trail continues as a dirt path.

Skirt behind the Los Alamos Airport buildings and continue east as the trail parallels the airport fence. A few yards after a steep drop, the Zipline Trail turns off to the left. The Zipline Trail wastes no time descending into the canyon on more than a dozen steep switchbacks. Near the canyon bottom, turn left onto the Tent Rocks Trail. This trail winds through pine forest for about a mile before crossing the channel and ending at the dirt Pueblo Canyon Trail. Turn left and continue up the canyon and past tent rocks. After the second stream crossing, stay left and watch for the Ranch School Trail. Turn left onto this trail, cross the stream again, and follow the trail back to the trailhead.