

# City of El Paso PARK NAMING/CHANGING Application



#### **Applicant information** Please print or type the information in black ink Applicant Name: Carl C. Jackson Zip: 79938 City: El Paso Mailing Address: Work Phone: Cell Phone: Home Phone: \_ Email Address: Organization ■ Non-Profit Proposed Name / Change 14800 Tierra Forteleza Ave Park/Facility Location/Address: Current name of Park or Facility: Fortaleza Park □ Not Applicable Suggested Name: Trotter Memorial Park Category: Outstanding Individual(s) Acknowledges the sustained contribution that has been made by such individual(s) to the City of El Paso and/or the development and management of the City's park and recreation system. Common usage identifying the Neighborhood П Acknowledges the geographic location or common name that gives a particular identity to a neighborhood. Historical Event, Person, Place Preserves and honors the history of El Paso, its founders, other historical figures or local landmarks. Natural or Geographical Feature to the area Acknowledges a prominent or unique natural or geological feature in the surrounding area. Benefit/Organization Acknowledgement Major gift, acknowledges the significant benefit of a donation Other Describe: To Commemorate the Lives of Sebastian, Jr and Charlotte Trotter whoes lives were taken from us prematurely during the floods in Ruidoso, New Mexico - July 2025 Date Received at PARD Admin: PLEASE DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA Date District Rep. Notified: PARKS AND RECREATION Date of Committee Meeting: STAFF ONLY Date of PRAB Meeting: Date of City Council Meeting:



## PARK NAMING/CHANGING



#### **Supporting Documentation**

	ty after an outstanding person, a biography must also be attached and include material that identifies the idual's significance and notable reputation in the City of El Paso.								
Sebastian, Jr (age 7) and his beloved sister Charlotte (age 4) were vacationing with their parents in Ruidoso, NM									
whe	n the Guadalupe River flash flooded and swept them away, taking the lives of the two children.								
The	Trotter family lives down the street from the park and has spent many hours there								
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Form 09-0001 Revised 11/06/12 Page 2 of 5

From: Karen Jackson

Subject:

Date: August 7, 2025 at 8:47 AM

To:

My name is Hank Wyatt and I'm reaching out on behalf of my brother and sister in law while they're in the hospital with serious injuries due to the Ruidoso, NM, flash flood.

On July 8th, what was supposed to be a carefree family vacation in Ruidoso, New Mexico, turned into a nightmare no one could have imagined.

Their babies, \*little\* Sebastian Rowan (7) and Charlotte Emery Trotter (4), lost their lives and were sent to be with the lord. Their dogs, Zeus (9) and Ellie (5) were also sadly unable to survive their injuries. Their German Shepherd Lily (8) thankfully survived alongside the parents, Stephanie and Sebastian.

They were camping alongside a small stream of water at an RV park in Ruidoso, NM. They had a fantastic day exploring the town, shopping, getting pizza for lunch, playing soccer, and then came back to start packing up the RV to leave.

They received no warning or alerts on their phone when suddenly water began to flood the campsite at a rapid pace. The RV began to fill up with water before they could even step out of the door. Their efforts to escape the RV and seek refuge failed. As the water got more and more violent, the RV was nearly half way filled with water when the wall of the RV cracked in half and the mother and kids were sucked into the water. Sebastian (parent) dove into the water after the kids.

Stephanie was holding onto her babies fighting the water, trying to get them to safety. Her Husband, Sebastian, was able to guide their son up a tree while Stephanie and their daughter Charlotte continued down the river until trees and debris hit and separated them. It was impossible for them to fight against the speed and depth of the water at this point.

Stephanie was drowning and found the strength to force herself back above the water and thankfully got stuck on a part of a wall in order to be rescued by some people nearby.

Its a miracle that Stephanie and Sebastian (parents) even survived those waters.

The entire town tried to help as much as possible and we thank them for their support. Everyone helped trying to rescue them as well as their dogs.

As if losing their children and two of their dogs weren't enough, the flood destroyed their RV, their truck, and nearly every precious keepsake they brought with them... photo albums, laptops and phones filled with memories, and the simple comforts of home. Stephanie and Sebastian both sustained serious injuries; Sebastian faces major surgeries and months of recovery, and she will not be able to work fully for quite some time. Stephanie is a nursing student and Sebastian is a active US Army soldier.

We are raising these funds not only to cover their bills, mortgage, and rehabilitation, but to give our little Sebastian and Charlotte the beautiful farewell they deserve... their funerals, the memorials, the moments of love and remembrance that no amount of sorrow should ever steal from a family.

These funds will mostly be used to give the kids the memorials that they deserve and ensure that the parents have one less thing they need to worry about.

Sebastian and Stephanie were devoted parents to two of the brightest, most joyful souls you could ever meet. Little Sebastian loved nothing more than chasing a soccer ball across a field, dreaming of playing professionally one day. Charlotte was our little performer. Always singing, always twirling, and lighting up every room she entered. They were kind, curious, and loved harder than anyone I've ever known.

This is the worst day of our family's lives. If you can give even a dollar, it will help shoulder some of the burden the parents have and they can focus on healing. If you can share this page, you can help bring hope to Stephanie and Sebastian in their darkest hour. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for standing with us. Any kindness you can offer will mean the world.

# 3 dead, including 2 children of Fort Bliss soldier, in New Mexico flooding, local authorities say

**abcnews.go.com/**US/deadly-new-mexico-flooding-rio-ruidoso/story?id=123599023

Officials used a "multi-alert" system to alert residents of the floods.



7:22

Charlotte and Sebastian Trotter are seen in this family photo.

#### Courtesy Tiffanie Wyatt

Two young children of a U.S. Army soldier stationed at Fort Bliss were among the three people killed in a record-breaking flash flood that swept through a village in New Mexico on Tuesday, local officials said.

The three were "swept downstream by the unprecedented floodwaters that struck" the Village of Ruidoso, village officials said in a statement.

"The biggest catastrophe of all are the lives that we lost," Mayor Lynn Crawford said during a press conference on Wednesday.



Water flows past damaged houses along the Rio Ruidoso after a deadly flash flooding in Ruidoso, N.M.,

July 9, 2025.

Paul Ratje/Reuters

The two children were identified as Charlotte Trotter, 4, and Sebastian Trotter, 7, according to their aunt Tiffanie Wyatt. She said their father, Sebastian Trotter, a solder based at Fort Bliss in El Paso, Texas, and their mother, Stephanie, both suffered serious injuries but survived and were receiving medical treatment at a hospital in Texas.

"We want everyone to know that the kids were full of life and always laughing," Wyatt told ABC News in a statement. "Sebastian was an avid Pokémon card collector, loved to play sports, but was a huge soccer fanatic. He wanted to be a professional soccer player when he got older. Charlotte loved to be the center of attention. She loved to sing, dance, and make jokes. She also loved to give people makeovers with her play makeup."

She added, "The kids knew nothing but love and we believe they felt it to the very end."



Charlotte and Sebastian Trotter are seen in this family photo.

Courtesy Tiffanie Wyatt

The family also lost two dogs in the flood, a 4-year-old German Shepherd named Ellie and a 9-year-old husky named Zeus.

The third person who died in the flooding -- a man in his 40s or 50s -- has not been publicly identified.

"Our hearts are heavy with grief following this devastating loss. The entire Fort Bliss community extends our deepest condolences to the family and loved ones affected by this tragedy," Brig. Gen. Rory Crooks, the deputy commanding general of the First Armored Division and Fort Bliss, said in a statement.

# MORE: Texas flooding live updates: 110 dead in Texas, 161 missing in Kerr County

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More than 65 others were rescued by emergency crews, officials said. Three individuals were transported to the hospital for treatment, but all are in stable condition, officials said. Preliminary findings show that around 35 to 50 homes were damaged or lost in the floods, officials said.

Officials said they were prepared for potential flooding due to their "multi-alert system," which includes a traditional siren, door-to-door knocking and "opt-in" notifications for residents to receive alerts on their phones.



In this image taken from video, a house is carried away by flash flooding behind a house in Ruidoso, N.M.,

Tuesday, July 8, 2025.

Kaitlyn Carpenter via AP

"We always urge citizens to not rely on one emergency alert system," village officials said on Wednesday. "Layers save lives."

The Rio Ruidoso rose "to a record-breaking 20 feet -- 5 feet higher than the previous record," officials said. The area was pummeled with 3.5 inches of rain in about 90 minutes, which impacted the community "head on," officials said on Wednesday.

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During the rescues, officials said they found people in trees, in the water or trapped in their homes.

"The flash flooding occurred Tuesday afternoon when heavy monsoonal rains fell on burn scar areas from last year's South Fork and Salt fires, creating dangerous conditions that led to rapid water rise throughout the village," the village said.

The National Weather Service in Albuquerque <u>said</u> early data placed the river's crest at 20.24 feet on Tuesday afternoon, which would break the record of 15.86 feet that was set on July 20, 2024.



In this image taken from video, flash flooding is seen behind a house in Ruidoso, N.M., Tuesday, July 8, 2025.

Kaitlyn Carpenter via AP

The highest measured rainfall was 3.29 inches on the southwest side of the South Fork burn scar. But generally speaking between 1.5 and 3.5 inches of rain fell on the burn scar and up to 1.5 inches fell in the village of Ruidoso.

Prior to the floods, the National Weather Service issued a flash food watch on Tuesday at 8 a.m., which was followed by a flash flood warning at 2:20 p.m., officials said. Less than half an hour later, a flash flood emergency was issued at 2:47 p.m., officials said.

"As you can tell, it came on pretty suddenly," Crawford said Wednesday.

But officials said they were not just relying on alerts, with the National Guard already in place before the flooding began.

The threat for rain and flooding is not over in the area.

# MORE: Texas flooding victims: From young campers to a dad saving his family, what we know about the lives lost



A flood watch is in effect over this specific area -- Ruidoso and Capitan -- for Wednesday afternoon because there is a chance for 1-inch per hour rainfall rates with isolated downpours possible in the region. Another round of rain is possible in the evening as well. If another downpour happens, flash flooding can begin rapidly just like Tuesday.

Village officials said they are in "close contact" with state officials and the request for federal disaster assistance has already been issued.

There have been multiple flash flooding events in the same region since the South Fork Fire in June 2024 burned more than 17,000 acres. Prior to Tuesday's event, Ruidoso suffered serious flash flooding as recently as June 26.

A full damage assessment is underway but will take "several days" to complete, officials said on Wednesday.

Officials said anyone with information on those missing in the floods should call their missing persons hotline at 575-637-0328.

# **Related Topics**

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# Mom Recounts Floods That Killed Her Children —'FIGHTING in the Water'

N www.newsweek.com/new-mexico-ruidoso-flash-flooding-deaths-2098171

July 12, 2025



By Martha McHardy **US News Reporter** 



#### Newsweek Is A Trust Project Member

A grieving mother has described the terrifying final moments she spent clinging to her children before deadly flash floods swept them away in Ruidoso, New Mexico.

"We tried so hard to save our babies," Stephanie Trotter wrote in an emotional statement, recounting how she held onto her son and daughter — Sebastian, 7, and Charlotte, 4 — as their RV filled with water in just seconds.

#### The Context

This flash flood tragedy is part of a broader pattern of devastating weather battering the American Southwest this summer. The flooding in New Mexico comes just weeks after deadly floods in Texas, where authorities recently reported more than 160 people missing in the aftermath of catastrophic storms. The tragedy in Ruidoso highlights growing concerns about increasingly intense weather systems striking communities with little time to prepare for sudden surges of water.



Residents of the town of Ruidoso, New Mexico, came back to their neighborhood to find what was left of their homes after major flooding on July 8, 2025. Roberto E. Rosales/AP

#### What To Know

Charlotte and Sebastian Trotter were found dead on July 8 after flash flooding swept through the village of Ruidoso and into Riverview RV Park. The children and their parents, Sebastian and Stephanie Trotter, had arrived just two days earlier for a family camping trip from El Paso, Texas.

"Our lives changed forever in the absolute worst possible way this past Tuesday while enjoying an innocent family vacation," Stephanie wrote on Facebook. "I want to start off by heartbreakingly announcing that it is true... that our babies Sebastian Rowan (7) and

Charlotte Emery (4) are gone with the Lord. Our dogs, Zeus (9) and Ellie (5), also did not make it. Somehow by an absolute miracle... our German shepherd Lily (8) survived along with my husband and I."

The Trotters had parked their RV near a small stream when the water rose with frightening speed.

"In a matter of a minute or so of the water breaking... our RV was filling before we could step out the door," she said. "We literally just got back to our site 10–15 minutes prior and never received warnings on our phones."

"They received no warning or alerts on their phone when suddenly water began to flood the campsite at a rapid pace," the children's uncle, Wyatt, wrote on <a href="GoFundMe.">GoFundMe.</a>

As the water rushed through the campsite, the family's escape efforts failed.

"Our RV began to fill with what felt like 100 mph water and eventually the wall broke open in our RV and we were sucked into the water," Stephanie said. "I was holding our babies FIGHTING in the water."

The parents were separated from their children by trees and debris in the torrent.

"My husband was able to guide our son up a tree from a distance for as long as he could hold on, but Charlotte and I continued down the river until trees and debris separated us," she wrote. "It was just simply impossible."

Wyatt described how her husband dove into the water to reach Charlotte, while Stephanie and her son tried to climb to safety.

"It was impossible for them to fight against the speed and depth of the water at this point," he said.

Stephanie said she felt herself drowning but somehow found the strength to fight back to the surface to try to reach her children. Both parents survived, with injuries that they say reveal "the story of a parent's will to fight and risk their own lives to give their babies a chance."

Now back in El Paso, the couple are recovering while mourning an unimaginable loss. Sebastian senior, who serves in the Army at Fort Bliss, requires surgery.

"Please pray for my husband as he goes in for surgery and pray that he can overcome the pain of some of the things he had to witness as a father," Stephanie wrote.

The family says they are deeply grateful to the strangers and rescue crews who risked their lives to pull them from the water.

"Thank you so much to everyone that helped get my husband and I out of the water as swiftly as possible and risking your lives for us," Stephanie said.

On GoFundMe, Wyatt remembered the siblings as the "brightest, most joyful souls you could ever meet."

"Little Sebastian loved nothing more than chasing a soccer ball across a field, dreaming of playing professionally one day. Charlotte was our little performer. Always singing, always twirling, and lighting up every room she entered. They were kind, curious, and loved harder than anyone I've ever known."

Fort Bliss, where Sebastian Trotter is stationed, has pledged to support the family during their recovery. Loved ones have launched a GoFundMe campaign to help them rebuild, which has raised more than \$198,000 as of July 12.

Above all, the family asks for privacy and prayers as they mourn.

"Our babies were absolutely everything to us. Everything we did and have been working so hard for — was always for them," Stephanie wrote. "Please just pray."

A third victim, identified by officials as a man between 40 and 50 years old, was swept away at the same RV park as the Trotter family.

Meanwhile, videos circulating on social media show a house being swept up in the surge in Ruidoso as rushing waters tore through previously burn-scarred terrain from wildfires.

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# Family seeks funds for children killed in Ruidoso flood

www.ruidosonews.com/family-seeks-funds-for-kids-killed-in-ruidoso-flood/

July 11, 2025

#### Sarah Rubinstein

Ruidoso News

Seven-year-old Sebastian Rowan Trotter and his sister Charlotte Emery Trotter, 4, were among the three found dead in the wake of the most devastating flood in Ruidoso's history.

Benjamin Feagin was also killed in the flood, according to the Ruidoso Community Support Facebook page. The Village of Ruidoso had not confirmed Feagin's identity as of Friday.

The children were visiting Ruidoso from their home in El Paso with parents Sebastian, a soldier stationed at Fort Bliss and Stephanie Trotter, a nursing student, when the floodwaters hit.



Photos of the Trotter family's pets were posted to their GoFundMe page. Only one dog survived.

GoFundMe

The parents were injured in the flood which also tragically took the lives of the family's German Shepard Ellie and husky Zeus. A second German Shepard Lily survived.

Following the deaths, the Trotters' family members set up a GoFundMe to support medical expenses and funeral costs.

"On July 8th, what was supposed to be a carefree family vacation in Ruidoso, New Mexico, turned into a nightmare no one could have ever imagined," wrote Hank Wyatt, uncle of the children on a GoFundMe page for the family.

The family was camping alongside a small stream at the Riverside RV Park on Sudderth Drive, Hank wrote.

Hank said the family "received no warning or alerts on their phone," prior to the flooding.

In the GoFundMe description, Hank detailed how their RV filled up with water before they could escape. Then, Stephanie and the children were "sucked into the water" with their father, Sebastian, diving in after them.

"It was impossible for them to fight against the speed and depth of the water at this point," he wrote.

Ultimately, Sebastian was able to guide his son up a tree while Stephanie and her daughter were hit by trees and debris and were separated, he wrote.

"It's a miracle that Stephanie and Sebastian even survived those waters," he wrote.

The GoFundMe, set a goal of \$125,000 to cover the family's medical expenses, rehabilitation and funerals for the children. As of Thursday afternoon, \$40,301 has been raised.

"As if losing their children and two of their dogs weren't enough, the flood destroyed their RV, their truck, and nearly every precious keepsake they brought with them... photo

albums, laptops and phones filled with memories, and the simple comforts of home," Hank wrote.

The children were memorialized on Facebook by their aunt, Tiffanie Wyatt.

"Our hearts are broken. This is something no family should ever have to face," she said on Facebook.

"Sebastian was an avid Pokémon card collector, loved to play sports, but was a huge soccer fanatic. He wanted to be a professional soccer player when he got older," Tiffanie said in a statement to ABC News.

"Charlotte loved to be the center of attention. She loved to sing, dance, and make jokes. She also loved to give people makeovers with her play makeup."

In a press conference Thursday, Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham expressed her hurt for the victims of the flooding.

"The two children and one adult gentleman that you've lost in this community is unfathomable, unfair, and is the worst of these kinds of disasters," she said.

Attempts were made to reach the family by Ruidoso News but were unsuccessful.



Signature

Phone Number

Address

Name

#### PARK NAMING/CHANGING FORM



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Citizen Support

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