

## Project Year-End Summary Report

Title of Project: Wildflowers of the Railyard Park

*Begin answering in the shaded box right beside or below each question and it will expand to accommodate as you type. Use up to a total of two and a half pages for questions 1-8. More detailed presentations, a final report, articles or posters are welcome separately\* (See final instructions at the end of this form.)*

1. Organization name or Individual who received the grant: Railyard Park Conservancy (RPC)

2. Amount of Grant: \$ 900

4. Was additional outside funding obtained? (check box that applies) Yes  No

Other funding source(s) if you checked "yes." Individual donation of \$250 to cover increase in printing costs

5. Briefly, how was the grant money from the Carter Conservation Fund used?

Grant funds were used to print and distribute copies of "11 Summer Wildflowers of the Santa Fe Railyard", a 20-page booklet designed by RPC Board Member and artist Lynn Grimes. It contains watercolor paintings of penstemmon, globe mallow, yarrow and more, as well as plant information including common and Latin names, family and habitat.

6. Write an abstract or summary of the activities performed and the progress that was made this year on your project. (Save any conclusions, lessons learned, and benefits achieved for the final sections, 7&8.)

Once we received notification of the grant award, Lynn Grimes worked for about a month with Allegre Printing to ensure the final printed version matched the original watercolor design as closely as possible. We then proceeded with printing and began distributing the booklets in April. About 275 of them were offered as take-home material to the K-5 students who participated in our Living Laboratory program, a series of field trips designed to pique children's interest in conservation and the natural world. Another 325 or so were distributed throughout the year during our free community events in the Railyard Park. These included an Earth Day celebration co-hosted by the Xerces Society and SITE Santa Fe; our annual Community Picnic; Graze Days, which features prescribed grazing by goats and sheep; and a community celebration of one of our public art installations.

7. How does your project further a Native Plant Society mission area, namely: *plant or ecological education; conservation/restoration of native plants and/or their habitats; adds to botanical research; promotes appropriate use of native plants to conserve water, land and/or wildlife.*

One of the RPC's primary responsibilities is to educate the community about how vital the Railyard Park's biodiversity is to long-term environmental sustainability. This is especially important given the park's unique blend of drought-tolerant native landscaping, which can sharply contrast with people's generally held ideas about how public greenspaces should look. The wildflower booklet helped us bridge this gap by giving visitors a visually compelling artwork that encouraged them to explore, discover and identify the park's many wildflowers, while also cultivating appreciation for the local habitats that sustain them.

8. Any other conclusions., lessons learned, benefits to you, the community or the environment hopefully result from your work as assisted by this grant.

We are really pleased with the overwhelmingly positive feedback the booklet elicited. Most recipients seemed to genuinely appreciate the care and artistry that went into making it. And as we hoped, handing out the booklets in person allowed us to talk one-on-one with visitors, building awareness and, hopefully, support for the park's diverse native landscaping. We were pleasantly surprised to discover that there was already some familiarity with the wildflowers, and that not one of the booklets wound up as park litter!

The booklet also nicely supplemented our field trip program by giving students a visually engaging, take-home learning tool that reinforced the activities they'd just completed in the park. These included Plant & Pollinator Investigation, Habitat Comparison and Garden Scavenger Hunt.

While we weren't able to distribute all 900 booklets in 2023, our goal is to give out the remaining 300 or so by the end of May 2024. Like this year, we'll offer them to field trip students, as well as at community events like Earth Day and Graze Days.

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### **Final Instructions**

**Please send your completed form as pdf as an email attachment to [cartergrantapps@gmail.com](mailto:cartergrantapps@gmail.com) by December 1.**

*\* To remain in good standing for any future funding from the Native Plant Society of New Mexico, we ask that you educate our membership more fully in some way. This could be an article (250 words minimum, at least 1 high resolution illustration or photo) for our newsletter, **or** a paper or electronic copy or link to a published article connected with the past year's work, **or** by making an educational and visual presentation to one of our chapters. Contact information for our 7 area chapters is found on our website at [www.npsnm.org](http://www.npsnm.org) under the Chapters tab.*

*What are your intentions in this regard?* I have contacted the NPSNM's Santa Fe chapter about the possibility of making a presentation at their next meeting.

This year end report is submitted by (Type your name) Izzy Barr

My typed name is equal to my handwritten signature in testifying to the accuracy and truth of this report to the best of my knowledge today.

eMail address [izzy@railyardpark.org](mailto:izzy@railyardpark.org)

Date 11/20/23

*Please contact us again at [cartergrantapps@gmail.com](mailto:cartergrantapps@gmail.com) if you have any questions or alternate suggestions.*