

## Project Year-End Summary Report

Title of Project: **Dripping Springs Naural Area Garden Enhancements 2023**

*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: **Friends of Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks ("Friends")**

2. Amount of Grant: **\$ 1,000**

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

Other funding source(s) if you checked "yes." **In-kind donations received from Robledo Nursery, Robert & Jamie Blair and Gordon Berman. Additionally the Friends pledged additional funds which will be spent in 2024.**

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

**Since the grant was less than the amount applied for, the money was focused on where it would be most visible: 73% was spent directly on purchasing plants; 27% was spent on drip components and materials to repair the water feature.**

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.)

**The Las Cruces Chapter (the "Chapter") of the Native Plant Society of New Mexico partnered with the Friends to provide plant expertise and volunteers to design and implement the garden upgrades. With the grant funds and support from the Friends and the Chapter, the garden, which was in significant decline since it had received no supplemental watering and little maintenance for over a year, is now greatly improved with lots of sweat equity and the addition of 35 plants, including 13 species of native plants. A Scarlet Bugler (*Penstemon barbatus*) in bud was added to the garden in August. By September it was in full bloom and attracted numerous hummingbirds (see photo on next page). Nearly all plant species are native to Dona Ana County. Since very few native plant nurseries exist near Las Cruces, many of these plants were purchased from nurseries as far away as Boulder, Colorado, Albuquerque, Santa Fe and Alpine, Texas. Additionally, the outer cacti garden has been redesigned and dozens of native cacti have been added. With the grant funds, many repairs and upgrades were made to the garden infrastructure. These include repairing leaks and extending existing drip lines throughout the garden and adding and adjusting emitters to areas where new plants were installed. A large number of overgrown and dead plants were removed as well as extensive weeding throughout the garden. The water feature was repaired by upgrading the plumbing to the garden, replacing parts to the float and sealing the bowl above the "falls". The sound of water flowing over the rocks once again is attracting a diversity of wildlife and brings joy and peace to visitors to the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument.**



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.*

**Enhancements made to the garden will help educate visitors to this national monument and help them understand and appreciate the native plant diversity of the Organ Mountains and Dona Ana County, New Mexico. In addition, blooming plants have attracted wildlife and provide them with forage and cover.**

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

**Having two like-minded nonprofit organizations collaborate on this project is a model for future endeavors and provides opportunities for greater community involvement.**

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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? A NPSNM newsletter article was submitted for publication in the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2024 newsletter. Additionally, a short program describing the garden improvements funded by the CCF Grant will be presented to the Las Cruces Chapter of the Native Plant Society of New Mexico in 2024.**

This year end report is submitted by (Type your name) **Patrick Nolan, Executive Director**

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 **director@organmtfriends.org**

Date **November 30, 2023**

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