

Project Year-End Summary Report

Title of Project: Colinas del Norte Elementary School NM Native Plant Library Garden

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: Charlene Peterson

2. Amount of Grant: \$ 1000.00

4. Was additional outside funding obtained? (check box that applies) Yes No
Other funding source(s) if you checked "yes."

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

The grant funds were used to install a New Mexico native plant garden in the library backyard at Colinas del Norte Elementary School in Rio Rancho.

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.)

Our school library backyard has come to life with the creation of a native New Mexico plant garden, thoughtfully planted by students eager to connect with the land around them. During the second week of April, a beautiful selection of plants arrived from Plant World, giving students their first glimpse of the textures, colors, and scents they would soon be working with. Last week, with careful hands and lots of excitement, students helped place each plant into the soil, learning not only how to garden, but also why native plants are so important to our local ecosystem.

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.*

This garden is more than just a space for plants—it is a living classroom. Students are already beginning to understand how native species thrive in New Mexico's climate, require less water, and support local pollinators like bees and butterflies. As the garden grows, it will serve as a peaceful extension of the library, a place where students can read, reflect, and observe nature firsthand. The experience of planting it together has fostered a sense of pride and ownership, and the garden will continue to bloom as a symbol of learning, stewardship, and community.

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

As soon as the plants were delivered and before they were planted in the ground, butterflies, lizards, and moths that looked like hummingbirds made their presence known as they found

delight in the plants, moving from one to another. When I introduced the students to the plants they demonstrated the same behavior, moving among the plants, especially those with the most blooms. I had over 500 students volunteer to plant the garden, but due to the overwhelming excitement not all had the chance to participate because the garden was planted in one day instead of the two week period I had originally planned for. I hope to find funds to purchase outdoor furniture, so all students can learn from and enjoy the garden classroom.

Final Instructions

Please send your completed form as a PDF email attachment to cartergrantapps@gmail.com by November 1, 2025.

** 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 under the Chapters tab.*

What are your intentions in this regard? I plan to write an article and submit photos.

This year end report is submitted by (Type your name) Charlene Peterson

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 charlene.peterson@rrps.net

Date April 25, 2026

Please contact us again at cartergrantapps@gmail.com if you have any questions or alternate suggestions.