Project Year-End Summary Report

Title of Project: VdO Backyard Refuge Habitat Garden Guide

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:

2. Amount of Grant: $ 2000

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

5. Briefly, how was the grant money from the Carter Conservation Fund used?
The funds from the Carter Conservation Fund were used to commission art for new species of plants who are living in the Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge (VdO) Habitat Garden around the visitor center.

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 University of New Mexico Sustainability Studies intern, Minerva Metcalf, spent the spring semester researching wildlife associations for the plants living in the VdO Habitat Garden. She created a new section in our iNaturalist VdO habitat guide (link below). Backyard Refuge Program artist LWren Walraven created art for several species of these plants and Minerva began learning to use Adobe inDesign to design this latest edition in our coloring book series.

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 coloring book featuring native plant species found in the VdO Habitat Garden can help people learn more about the wildlife species who benefit from specific native plants. We hope that in addition to teaching about these specific plants, it will foster curiosity for learning about other plant/wildlife associations and the role native plants have in our urban ecosystem. When coupled with our other Backyard Refuge Program educational materials, the coloring book can promote appropriate use of native plants for providing wildlife habitat while conserving water in our arid environment.

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 grateful for the opportunity to produce this coloring book focused on the native plants in our habitat garden at VdO. The coloring book will be distributed online, at VdO, Rio Grande Nature Center State Park, Wild Birds Unlimited, and at other partner locations. The accompanying iNaturalist Guide that was enhanced by our UNM intern can be found here: https://www.inaturalist.org/guides/15912
In addition to this guide, we also have an iNaturalist project where people can explore the more than 600 species of plants and wildlife who have been discovered there. https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/byr-valle-de-oro-nwr-visitor-center-habitat-garden
We are trying to reach as many people as possible in as many ways as possible to promote the concept of sharing space with wildlife by creating resilient native plant habitats in our homes and communities, and the coloring book series has been a popular addition to our educational materials.

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Final Instructions

Please send your completed form as a PDF email attachment to cartergrantapps@gmail.com by November 1, 2026.

* *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? We are writing an article about the VdO Habitat Garden as an educational space and will submit it before November 25th. I will also be giving a presentation to the Santa Fe chapter this spring.

This year end report is submitted by (Type your name) Laurel Ladwig

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 laurel@friendsofvalledeoro.org

Date 11-4-2026

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