

Report to the City



Fiscal Year 2025

Introduction

As the Railyard Park Conservancy (RPC) approaches its 15th anniversary, we're proud to reflect on our exceptional track record as official caretakers of the Railyard Park. Since signing our first annual Professional Services Agreement in the fall of 2010, the RPC has provided tremendous value to the City of Santa Fe by mobilizing more than 33,400 hours of volunteer horticulture care for the park's diverse landscaping, while also serving more than 30,500 youth and adults with free educational and cultural programming, and hosting 40+ public art exhibitions. Throughout this time, the RPC's work has been guided by both the the Conservation Easement under which the Railyard operates, and the original vision of the park as an environmentally sustainable greenspace offering community engagement and cultural enrichment.

Fiscal Year 2025 was very much in keeping with the RPC's past performance, and our longstanding commitment to sustainability, equitable access to public greenspaces, and creating opportunities for the community to enjoy the benefits of nature. On the horticulture side, we provided more than 2,400 hours of hands-on care through adult and Youth-In-Service volunteer sessions, activation of the park's Waffle and Community Gardens, and our Graze Days/Healthy Soils grassland restoration initiative. In addition, we served almost 4,000 youth and adults with free educational and cultural programming, including Sand Play Saturday, Pop-Up Playground, Living Laboratory field trips, Kids Sing Along, and three public art exhibitions.

Following are details outlining the RPC's work between July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025. Our Board of Directors, staff and volunteers thank the city for its continued support and collaboration.

Railyard Park Voted Best Park

2019	2023
2020	2024
2021	2025
2022	



Staff, Board of Directors & Advisory Committees

The RPC executes its mission with a small, four-person staff and a dedicated corps of volunteers. Our work is bolstered by an active Board of Directors and four Advisory Committees that meet throughout the year to help set and fulfill organizational goals.

Staff	Board of Directors	Children's Committee	Development Committee	Horticulture Committee	Railyard Art Committee
<u>Izzy Barr</u> Executive Director	<u>Jennifer Jenkins</u> Chair	Barbara Ansel			Izzy Barr
	<u>Max Meyers</u> Treasurer	Izzy Barr	Izzy Barr		Brandee Caoba
<u>Peggyjoy Hodgen</u> Horticulture Director	<u>Anne Nelson</u> Secretary	Lynn Grimes	Anne Culp	Izzy Barr	Matthew Chase-Daniel
<u>Juliet Staveley</u> Early Childhood Educator (part-time)	<u>Lynn Grimes</u> Director	Priscilla Gutierrez	Calvin Fields	Peggyjoy Hodgen	Tim Farrell
		Anne Nelson	Priscilla Gutierrez	Molly Mehaffy	Aurelia Gomez
	<u>Priscilla Gutierrez</u> Director	Juliet Staveley	Anne Nelson	Anne Nelson	Lynn Grimes
<u>CB Bryan</u> Marketing Director (part-time)	<u>Molly Mehaffy</u> Director	Janice Vascott			Peggy Hermann
		Tish Wilson			Melissa Houser
					Vic Macias
					Lillia McEnaney
					Molly Mehaffy
					Maria Luisa Minjares

Staff Changes FY25 - In June of 2025, CB Bryan took over for part-time Marketing Director Corey Pritts, who left after three years to join TOURISM Santa Fe. An artist and designer with a BFA from the University of New Mexico, CB also has experience teaching middle school art, leading field trips at Rio Grande Nature Center State Park, and working with the Bosque Ecosystem Monitoring Program.

Community Partners

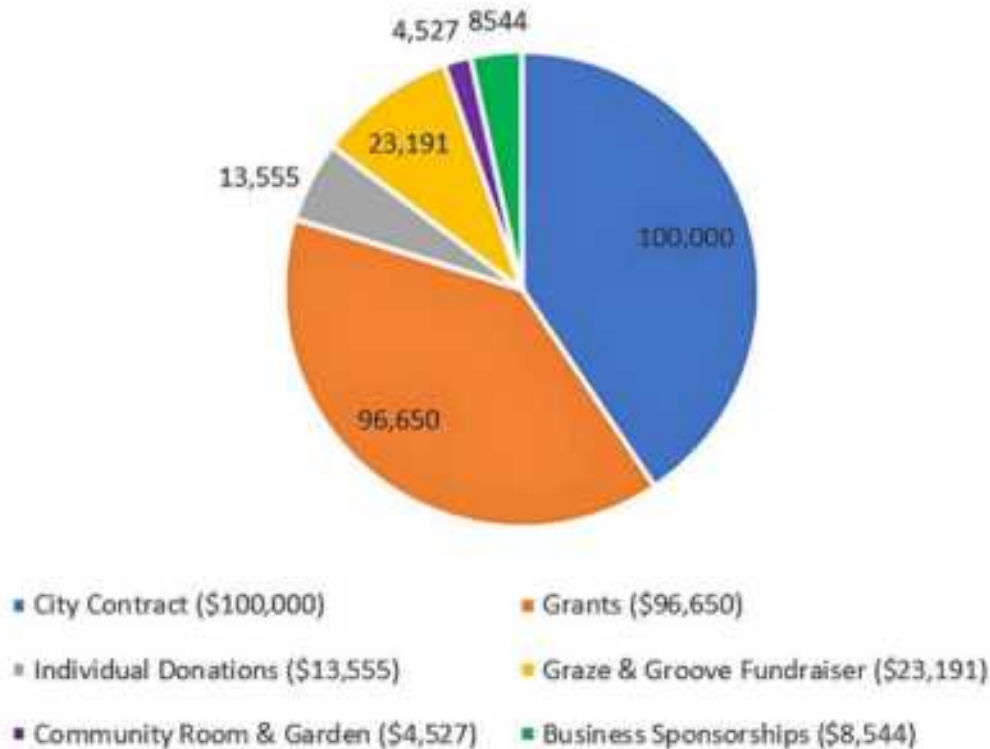
Like a lot of nonprofits with limited capacity, the RPC leans heavily into community collaboration to fulfill our mission. Each year we partner with a wide range of local organizations, schools, and businesses to broaden the reach and impact of our programs.

Acequia Madre Association
Acequia Madre Elementary School
AmeriCorps
Aspen Community School
Atalaya Elementary School
Axle Contemporary
Bike Santa Fe
Brindle Foundation
Cerise Consulting
City of Santa Fe
City of Santa Fe Arts & Culture Commission
CoLab Initiative
Community Educator's Network
Desert Montessori
Earth Care
ecoartspace
Enterprise Bank & Trust
Environmental Education of NM
Girls Inc.
Glorieta Camps
Herstory Printmaking Collective
Horned Locust Goatscaping
International Folk Art Market
Labyrinth Resource Group
La Casita Preschool
Mother Nature Center
New Mexico Department of Agriculture
New Mexico Healthy Soils Working Group

New Mexico Outdoor Recreation Division
New Mexico School for the Arts
New Mexico School for the Deaf
Nuckolls Brewing
Plants of the Southwest
Positive Energy Solar
Presbyterian Medical Service
Queen Bee Music Association
Quivira Coalition
Randall Davey Audubon Center
Reunity Resources
Rio Grande Elementary School
Rocky Mountain Youth Corps
San Ildefonso Day School
Santa Fe Botanical Garden
Santa Fe Children's Museum
Santa Fe Conservation Trust
Santa Fe Metropolitan Planning Organization
Santa Fe-Pojoaque Soil and Water Conservation
Santa Fe Railyard Community Corporation
Santa Fe Watershed Association
Second Street Brewery
The Semilla Project
SITE Santa Fe
Sky Railyway
Southwestern College
Violet Crown Cinema
Xerxes Society

Fundraising and Additional Contributions

FY25 - Total Income: \$246,467



Grant Funding FY25

- Brindle Foundation: \$30,000 for nature-based play programming
- Presbyterian Medical Services: \$21,071 for nature-based play programming
- City of SF Arts & Culture Commission: \$15,000 for the Railyard Art Project
- NM Department of Agriculture: \$13,178 for our Graze Days/Healthy Soils initiative
- NM Arts: \$5,843 for the Railyard Art Project
- Nusenda Foundation: \$5,125 for educational and Youth-In-Service programming
- Outdoor Equity Fund: \$2,834 for Living Laboratory field trips
- D.J. Kahlo Fund & La Liga: \$1,000 each for general operations
- Del Norte LOV Foundation & Andrew Beckerman Endowment Fund: \$250 each for general operations
- United Way & Combined Jewish Philanthropies: \$100 each for general operations

Fundraising and Additional Contributions

<u>Value-Added Contributions FY25</u>	<u>Volunteer Hours</u>	<u>Dollar Equivalent</u>
Volunteer Contributions to Horticultural Care (24-25 Independent Sector volunteer rate = \$28.54/hour)	1,775	\$50,659
Volunteer Contributions to Educational Programming (24-25 Independent Sector volunteer rate = \$28.54/hour)	381	\$10,874
Volunteer Contributions to Public Art (24-25 Independent Sector volunteer rate = \$28.54/hour)	432	\$12,329
Volunteer Board of Directors & Advisory Committee Contributions (\$75/hour – Specialized Skills)	186	\$13,950
Business Memberships	N/A	\$8,544
Grants & Foundations	N/A	\$96,650
Individual Donations	N/A	\$13,555
Graze & Groove Fundraiser	N/A	\$23,191
	<u>Total Value Added</u>	\$229,752

Horticultural Care



Yardmasters weeding in the Pollinator Garden (l) and doing post-construction rehab in the native grasslands (r)

Yardmasters – A year-round, drop-in program, Yardmasters (YM) is the backbone of our horticulture efforts in the park. Regardless of the season, or the weather, this group brings both passion and expertise to its work. YM contributed 695 hours of specialized service in FY25, including pruning fruit trees, removing invasive species, assisting with Graze Days, and doing post-irrigation construction rehabilitation.



After training with certified arborist/orchardist Kelsey Pazera, Yardmasters spent the better part of a month deadwooding and shaping the fruit trees in the Orchard Meadow and Rail Gardens.

Horticultural Care



For the third straight year, Yardmasters helped prepare for the International Folk Art Market (IFAM) by pruning and bracing the park's signature trumpet vines.

Community Cares – The RPC launched this quarterly event in October of 2025 to help support our community-based stewardship of the park. We collaborated with Railyard businesses, who provided both hands-on support and reduced pricing to participants following the sessions. More than 30 volunteers contributed 68 hours of service in FY25, including removing invasive species, hauling and spreading compost, clearing pathways, and cleaning up the labyrinth.



Horticultural Care

Community Garden – It was a busy, productive year in the park's Community Garden. In September 2024, SITE Santa Fe mobilized students from Native American Student Services to harvest Hopi Red Dye Amaranth, Indigo, Purple Cosmos and Marigolds as part of their community-engaged initiative, liná: Botanical Dye Garden. The following spring, local gardeners came out in full force to plant a variety of vegetables and herbs. Combined they contributed 238 hours of service in FY25



Water Warriors – Despite the challenges of the job - including hauling hundreds of feet of hose around the gardens - our Water Warriors are committed to helping the trees, shrubs and plants thrive. With ongoing drought, and the irrigation system being replaced, their hard work in FY25 was essential to the park's long-term biological health.



Horticultural Care



Waffle Garden – In May of 2025, our neighbors at SITE Santa Fe took over the park's Waffle Garden to plant and maintain a Three Sisters garden as part of an upcoming installation for their 12th International exhibition. SITE staff contributed 39 hours of volunteer horticulture care.

Enterprise Bank & IFAM – Employees from Enterprise Bank & Trust and the International Folk Art Market held service days in the park, contributing 26 hours of volunteer service in FY25. This included deadheading; removing kochia, elm and other invasive species from the Nasella Embankment and Rail Gardens; and doing trash sweeps of the entire park.



Horticultural Care



Youth In-Service Volunteers – Each year, the RPC collaborates with schools, camps and others to offer service and green job training opportunities to youth, inspiring a new generation of conservationists. In addition to giving participants hands-on training and education, these programs are vital to our horticultural efforts in the park, accounting for 35% of volunteer work completed in FY25.

Glorieta Camps



In June of 2025, we welcomed 34 youth and two adults visiting Glorieta Camps from Houston. In just three days, they contributed a whopping 378 hours of combined service, including spreading grass seed and compost, removing invasive species in the Naselle Embankment, and pruning trumpet vines.

Horticultural Care

Rio Grande Elementary & Girls Inc.



Rio Grande watering the crabapple trees (l), and Girls Inc. collecting compost to spread in the Waffle Garden (r).

New Mexico School for the Deaf (NMSD) – High school and middle school students from NMSD came out to learn about the RPC's horticulture projects and management, while also providing 50 hours of volunteer service in FY25. This included turning the compost pile, cleaning the Community Garden, removing invasive species, and picking up trash.



Horticultural Care

Rocky Mountain Youth Corps (RMYC) – Since 2018, the RPC has been collaborating with RMYC and NMSD to offer green job skills training to members of the deaf and hard of hearing community. Crew members receive hands-on horticultural training, while also developing leadership and project management skills.



In June 2025, RMYC contributed 140 hours of service, including removing weed barrier and invasive species; doing post-irrigation construction clean-up and rehab; and deadheading, weeding, clearing pathways, and picking up trash throughout the park.



Horticultural Care



Graze Days – Thanks to a third straight year of funding from the NM Department of Agriculture, the RPC was able to host 10 Graze Days sessions in FY25, drawing almost 1,400 visitors. It's an essential piece of our Healthy Soils in the Railyard Park initiative, which aims to strengthen the ecosystem, maximize biodiversity, and create resilience against drought and climate change by incorporating healthy soil management principles into all of our horticultural work.



Educational Programming

Living Laboratory Field Trips – With grants from the Outdoor Equity Fund and the Nusenda Foundation, the RPC hosted five Living Laboratory field trips in FY25, serving 150 K-5 students from Acequia Madre, Aspen Community, Atalaya Elementary, Girls Inc., and San Ildefonso Pueblo. Since launching in 2023, the program has engaged 565 students with outdoor learning, more than 40% of whom came from schools serving low-income communities.



Field trips are designed to use the park's blend of biological diversity, cultural heritage, and recreational infrastructure to animate the curriculum beyond what's possible in the classroom. Activities include Scavenger Hunt, Compost Creatures, Habitat Investigation, and Physics on the Playground.



Educational Programming



Sand Play Saturday – Now in its ninth year, Sand Play Saturday is the foundation of our nature-based educational programming, giving infants and toddlers the chance to explore, discover and think creatively through open-ended play with sand, water and toys. It's also one of our most popular, serving 645 children and adults in FY25. The program is enhanced each week by additional sensory experiences like mud play and water painting, as well as activities and information from partner organizations like Desert Montessori, Positive Energy Solar, and La Casita Preschool.



Educational Programming



Pop-Up Playground – The RPC’s sixth annual Pop-Up Playground (PUP) was the perfect way to close out a busy summer. Held in the park’s Open Field on the 2024 fall equinox, the family-friendly event celebrated kids, their imaginations, and their boundless creativity. More than 125 people turned out to build a giant fort city out of recycled materials, while also enjoying music from the Zuva marimba band.

Kids Sing Along – Queen B Music Association’s free weekly sing along keeps growing in popularity, serving 1,085 children and adults in its fourth season, a 21% jump from last year. Led by Teacher Sarah-Jane, the family-friendly get together features a variety of engaging music games geared towards infants and toddlers.



Public Art



Sprinkle – Constructed primarily with reclaimed wood and metal, James Gould's mixed media installation drew inspiration from neglected structures that have been left to weather and disintegrate. Pieces were intentionally missing, creating a visual celebration of light and shadow meant to evoke our agricultural heritage, places of shelter, and perhaps even a spirit house. The Railyard Art Project (RAP) exhibit was one of two funded in FY25 by grants from the City of Santa Fe's Arts & Culture Commission and New Mexico Arts, and ran from late January to mid-June of 2025.



RAP hosted opening and closing celebrations for Sprinkle, during which attendees were given access to the structure. The events also featured snacks, drinks, live music and a stilt walker.

Public Art

Missing Waters – The second of RAP’s grant-funded projects, eco-artist Stacy Levy’s large-scale water map painting was meant to evoke Santa Fe’s more aqueous past, when at least 40 acequias flowed through the city. Over the course of three days in April 2025, Levy collaborated with local artists, students from New Mexico School for the Arts, and passersby to apply the water map directly to the existing hardscape, using hydrological patterns that moving water creates with laminar flow and turbulence. In all, 95 community members participated, covering more than 4,000 feet of surface area throughout the Railyard.



With grant funds, RAP was able to support other local artists, contracting with photographer Shayla Blatchford and videographers Luke Fitch and Jeb Stewart to capture still and drone footage of the installation.



Public Art

Trinities – After planting the Three Sisters in the Waffle Garden, SITE Santa Fe – in collaboration with RAP – completed Ximena Garrido-Lecca's Trinities installation in June by bringing in her prismatic sculpture, constructed with sand, limestone, iron, copper, and other materials. The exhibit is part of SITE's 12th International, Once Within a Time, and will run through January of 2026.



Bluegrass & Bagels – In collaboration with the RPC, Greg Neal and Queen Bee Music host this free, drop-in jam session in the park's Community Room on the second Sunday of every month. More than 130 local musicians attended in FY25 to play their favorite GospelGrass, TradGrass and NewGrass tunes.



Community Contributions



Weird Science – For the third straight year, the RPC was invited to host a table at the Santa Fe Children’s Museum’s annual Weird Science Halloween bash. Hundreds of youth and adults came out to trick or treat, and explore the weird world of science, including our very own creepy, crawly compost worms. Proceeds from the October 2024 event supported the museum’s family-friendly programming.



Summer of Bike – In honor of Bike to Work Day and Santa Fe’s first ever Summer of Bike, the RPC and the Metropolitan Planning Organization teamed up to serve free Coffee & Donuts on the Rail Trail. More than 40 people came to celebrate and enjoy fresh baked goods from Santa Fe’s own Whoo’s Donuts.

Community Contributions



In October of 2024, 58 early childhood educators from PMS attended a nature play workshop in the Railyard Park's Sand Area

Nature-based play at Earth Care, Southwestern College & PMS – With support from the Brindle Foundation, the RPC continued a four-year initiative to connect children and families with nature in other parts of Santa Fe. The collaborative effort supports southside Sand Play programs at Earth Care and Southwestern College's Tierra Nueva Counseling Center (TNCC), and nature-based play and education in Presbyterian Medical Services' (PMS) Early Head Start and Head Start classrooms. Combined these programs served 325 children and 122 early childhood educators in FY25.



Sand and nature play programs at PMS' Early Head Start (l), TNCC (c), and Earth Care (r)