

Report to the City



FISCAL YEAR 2026

Introduction

The Railyard Park Conservancy (RPC) is proud to present its annual report for Fiscal Year 2026 (FY26), highlighting another year of collaborative stewardship in service to one of Santa Fe's most treasured public spaces. Since entering into its first Professional Services Agreement with the City in 2010, the RPC has combined professional expertise with thousands of volunteer hours to care for the Railyard Park's diverse landscapes, while providing free educational, cultural, and community programming that connects people of all ages to nature. Throughout this work, the RPC has remained guided by the Railyard Conservation Easement, and the original vision of the park as an environmentally sustainable public space that fosters community engagement, ecological stewardship, and cultural enrichment.

FY26 was defined by both restoration and resilience. As the City completed installation of the park's new irrigation system, the RPC focused much of its horticultural work on rehabilitating landscapes affected by construction, while continuing to advance long-term ecological initiatives such as Graze Days/Healthy Soils. Together, these efforts resulted in more than 2,300 hours of hands-on horticultural care, including activation of the Community Garden, enhancing biodiversity in the Pollinator Garden, and hosting five Graze Days sessions to restore native grasslands and improve soil health. Beyond horticulture, the RPC served 3,454 youth and adults through free educational and cultural programming, including Living Laboratory field trips, Sand Play Saturday, Kids Sing Along, Pop-Up Playground, a community-wide Earth Day celebration, and three public art exhibitions.

The following report summarizes the RPC's work between July 1, 2025, and June 30, 2026. On behalf of our Board of Directors, staff, and volunteers, we thank the City of Santa Fe for its continued partnership and support.

RAILYARD PARK VOTED BEST PARK

2019	2023
2020	2024
2021	2025
2022	



Staff, Board of Directors, & Committees

The RPC carries out its mission through the combined efforts of a small, four-person staff, and a dedicated corps of community volunteers. Our work is guided by an engaged Board of Directors and four volunteer Advisory Committees that meet throughout the year to help shape organizational priorities and advance our mission.

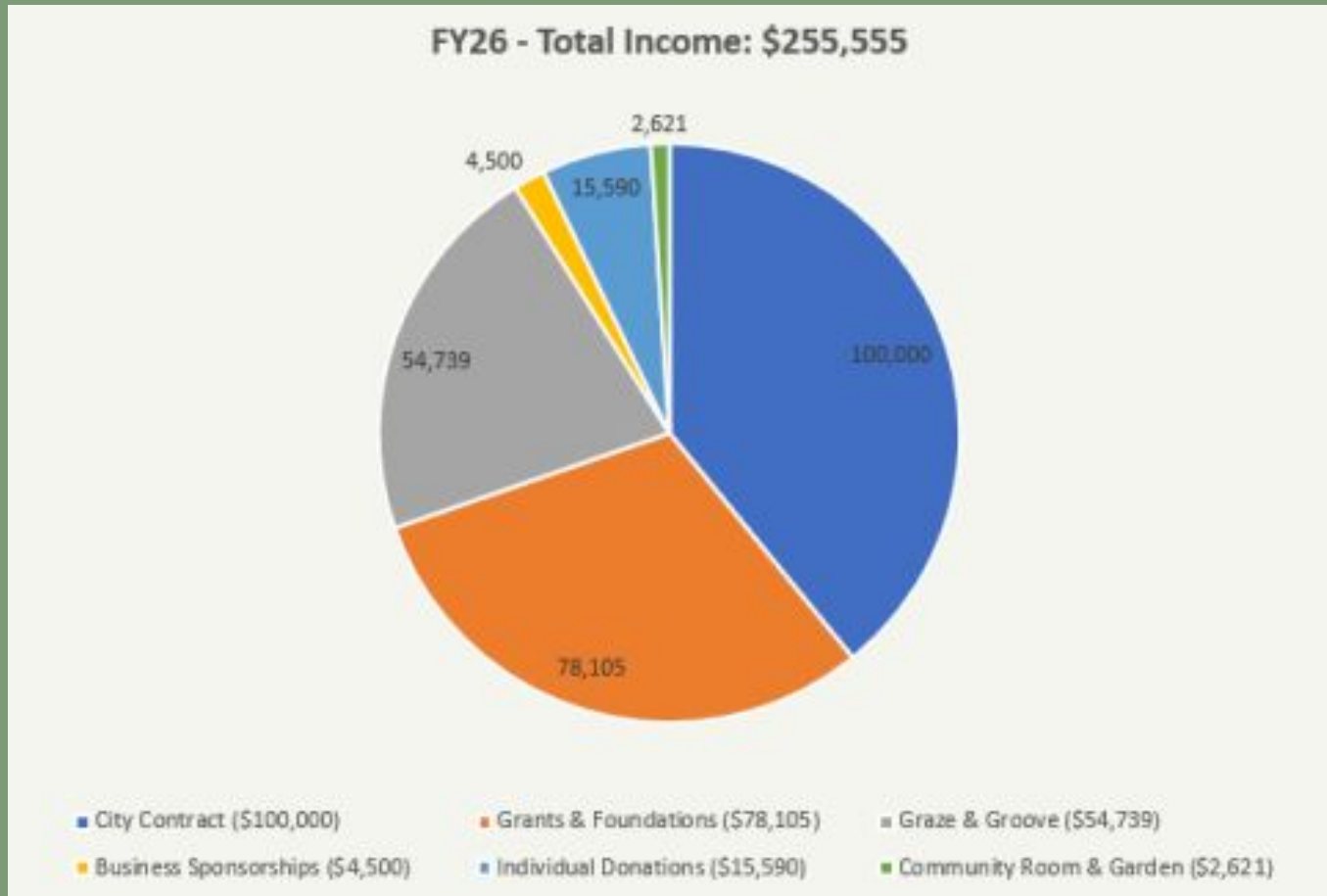
STAFF	BOARD OF DIRECTORS	CHILDREN'S COMMITTEE	DEVELOPMENT/ FUNDRAISER COMMITTEE	HORTICULTURE COMMITTEE	RAILYARD ART COMMITTEE
	<u>Jennifer Jenkins</u> Chair				
<u>Izzy Barr</u> Executive Director	<u>Max Meyers</u> Treasurer	Barbara Ansel	Izzy Barr		Izzy Barr
			Cyndi Conn		Travis Dale
<u>Peggyjoy Hodgen</u> Horticulture Director	<u>Anne Nelson</u> Secretary	Izzy Barr	Anne Culp		Tim Farrell
	<u>Lynn Grimes</u> Director	Lynn Grimes	Abby Feldman	Izzy Barr	Johanna Frenz
<u>Juliet Staveley</u> Early Childhood Educator (part-time)	<u>Priscilla Gutierrez</u> Director	Priscilla Gutierrez	Calvin Fields	Peggyjoy Hodgen	Aurelia Gomez
	<u>Christopher Hall</u> Director	Anne Nelson	Priscilla Gutierrez	Molly Mehaffy	Lynn Grimes
<u>CB Bryan</u> Marketing Director (part-time)	<u>Molly Mehaffy</u> Director	Juliet Staveley	Christopher Hall	Anne Nelson	Melissa Houser
	<u>Andréa Salazar</u> Director	Janice Vascott	Jennifer Jenkins		Kiki Johnson
		Tish Wilson	Anne Nelson		Vic Macias
					Molly Mehaffy

Community Partners

Community collaboration is central to the RPC's work. As a small nonprofit, we rely on strong partnerships with local organizations, schools and businesses to expand the reach and impact of our programs, ensuring that they remain accessible, relevant, and responsive to local needs.

350 Santa Fe	Presbyterian Medical Service
Abstract Picnic Collective	Public Lands Interpretive Association
Acequia Madre Association	Queen Bee Music Association
Acequia Madre Elementary School	Quivira Coalition
All Aboard Earth	Randall Davey Audubon Center
Atalaya Elementary School	Reunity Resources
Bike Santa Fe	Rio Grande Elementary School
Brindle Foundation	Rocky Mountain Youth Corps
Cerise Consulting	San Ildefonso Day School
City Nature Challenge	Santa Fe Arts & Culture Commission
City of Santa Fe	Santa Fe Botanical Garden
CoLab Initiative	Santa Fe Children's Museum
Community Educator's Network	Santa Fe Conservation Trust
Desert Montessori	Santa Fe County Sustainability
Earth Care	Santa Fe Economic Development
Enchanted Garden Preschool	Santa Fe Railyard Community Corporation
Environmental Education of New Mexico	Santa Fe Raptor Center
Girls Inc.	Santa Fe Watershed Association
Horned Locust Goatscaping	Second Street Brewery
International Folk Art Market	SITE Santa Fe
Journey Montessori	Sky Railyway
Mountain Kids!	Southwestern College
Native Plant Society of New Mexico	Sustainable Santa Fe
New Mexico Outdoor Recreation Division	Tesuque Elementary School
New Mexico School for the Deaf	Third Act New Mexico
Plants of the Southwest	Whole Foods Market
Positive Energy Solar	Xerxes Society

Fundraising and Additional Contributions



Grant Funding FY26

- Brindle Foundation: \$29,000 for nature-based play programming
- Presbyterian Medical Services: \$16,428 for nature-based play programming
- City of SF Arts & Culture Commission: \$15,000 for the Railyard Art Project
- Outdoor Equity Fund: \$9,845 for Living Laboratory field trips
- Carroll Petrie Foundation: \$5,000 for Graze Days/Healthy Soils initiative
- Santa Fe Garden Club: \$1,710 for Graze Days/Healthy Soils initiative
- Andrew Beckerman Endowment and Zimmer Community Funds: \$500 each for general operations
- United Way: \$122 for general operations

Fundraising and Additional Contributions

<u>VALUE-ADDED CONTRIBUTIONS FY26</u>	<u>VOLUNTEER HOURS</u>	<u>DOLLAR EQUIVALENT</u>
Volunteer Contributions to Horticultural Care (25-26 Independent Sector volunteer rate = \$33.72/hour)	1,785	\$60,190
Volunteer Contributions to Educational Programming (25-26 Independent Sector volunteer rate = \$33.72/hour)	752	\$25,357
Volunteer Contributions to Public Art (25-26 Independent Sector volunteer rate = \$33.72/hour)	105	\$3,541
Volunteer Board of Directors & Advisory Committees (25-26 Independent Sector volunteer rate = \$33.72/hour)	178	\$6,002
Business Memberships	N/A	\$4,500
Grants & Foundations	N/A	\$78,105
Individual Donations	N/A	\$15,590
Graze & Groove Fundraiser	N/A	\$54,739
	TOTAL VALUE ADDED	\$248,024

Horticultural Care



Graze Days – Thanks in part to funding from the Carroll Petrie Foundation and Santa Fe Garden Club, the RPC hosted five Graze Days sessions in FY26, drawing almost 1,200 visitors. It's a cornerstone of our Healthy Soils initiative, which utilizes prescribed grazing and other regenerative land management practices to restore native grasslands, improve soil health, increase biodiversity, and build resilience to drought and climate change.



Horticultural Care



With a donation from the Xerces Society, YM added to the Pollinator Garden. The park is an integral part of Sante Fe's Pollinator Trail, a network of habitats for bees, butterflies, and other pollinators.

Yardmasters (YM) – YM is our year-round volunteer horticulture program. Meeting twice each week, this dedicated group brings skill, consistency, and care to the park's gardens and landscape, helping maintain its beauty and ecological health. They contributed 820 hours of specialized service in FY26, including doing post-construction rehabilitation, assisting with Graze Days, spreading seed and compost, and pruning fruit trees.



Following installation of the park's new irrigation system, YM worked to rehab the native grasslands by removing rocks, loosening compacted soil, and adding grass/wildflower seed and compost

Horticultural Care



In late winter every year, YM volunteers spend weeks pruning the fruit trees in the Orchard Meadow and Rail Gardens, under the guidance of certified arborist/orchardist Kelsey Pazera.

Community Garden – The Community Garden provides residents with an opportunity to grow food, build community, and connect with the park through hands-on stewardship. In FY26, volunteer gardeners contributed 566 hours of service while cultivating a vibrant mix of plants, including squash, tomatoes, greens, herbs, strawberries, and wildflowers.



Horticultural Care

Rose Pruning Workshop– In early April, Santa Fe Botanical Garden Horticulture Director Linda Churchill conducted a pruning workshop in the park's Rose Ramada. Participants learned about the proper techniques to promote healthy growth and maximum blooms, while contributing 12 hours of service.



Community Cares – Now in its second year, this quarterly stewardship program invites community members to work alongside staff to care for the park, while building connections with one another and the landscape. In FY26, volunteers contributed 28 hours of service, assisting with post-irrigation landscape restoration, spreading compost, and preparing the Community Garden for the growing season.



Horticultural Care

International Folk Art Market (IFAM) – Staff and volunteers from IFAM came out for three separate service days in FY26. In all, they contributed 48 hours of volunteer work, including helping prep for the RPC's Earth Day event in the Open Field, deadheading in the Rail Gardens, pruning the trumpet vines, and picking up litter.



Whole Foods & Prime Coalition – The RPC hosted both local (Whole Foods) and national (Prime Coalition) volunteer groups in the spring of 2026. Combined they provided 82 hours of service, including spreading compost and grass seed, removing invasive species, deadheading, and picking up litter.



Horticultural Care



Youth-In-Service Volunteers – The RPC's Youth-In-Service and Green Job Training programs provide hands-on horticultural training and environmental education, introducing youth to real-world climate solutions while inspiring the next generation of conservationists. Their work also makes a meaningful contribution to the park's long-term ecological health.



Journey Montessori - The RPC kicked off a new partnership with students and staff from Journey to plant their own demonstration garden. They contributed 67 hours of service in FY26, including prepping the Nasella Embankment for planting, and spreading compost.

Horticultural Care

Rio Grande Elementary - Each spring, 3rd graders from Rio Grande Elementary come out for a service day in the park. Fifteen students and seven adults pitched in to provide 44 hours of service in FY26, turning and watering the compost pile, and picking up litter.



New Mexico School for the Deaf (NMSD) – Since 2024, high school students and staff from NMSD have come out to learn about the RPC's horticulture projects and management. In FY26, they provided 64 hours of service, spreading compost, removing invasive species, and assisting with Graze Days.



Horticultural Care



Rocky Mountain Youth Corps (RMYC) – Through an ongoing Green Job Skills Training partnership with RMYC and NMSD, the RPC provides hands-on horticultural training while helping participants build leadership and workforce skills. In FY26, RMYC crew members contributed 60 hours of service, assisting with post-irrigation landscape restoration, invasive species removal, pathway maintenance, and general park stewardship.



Educational Programming



Sand Play Saturday – The foundation of the RPC's free educational programming, Sand Play Saturday invites infants and toddlers to explore, create, and connect with nature through open-ended sensory play. Grounded in research on early childhood development, the program fosters curiosity, creativity, confidence, and a lifelong connection to the natural world. Weekly activities such as mud play and nature journaling, along with hands-on experiences led by community partners, enrich the experience for participating families. In FY26, the program welcomed 673 children and adults.



Educational Programming

Living Laboratory Field Trips – The RPC's Living Laboratory field trip program engages K–5 students in hands-on environmental education through immersive, place-based learning experiences in the park. In FY26, the program served 173 students from Girls Inc., San Ildefonso Pueblo, Acequia Madre Elementary, Tesuque Elementary, and Atalaya Elementary, connecting them with local ecology, climate science, and environmental stewardship.



Through inquiry-based activities - including Sand Play Challenge, Water, Community & Acequias, The Lost Words, and Pollinator Investigation - Living Laboratory encourages students to explore, ask questions, and discover the natural systems at work in the park.



Educational Programming

Pop-Up Playground – The RPC's annual Pop-Up Playground celebrates the power of child-directed, imaginative play. Held each fall in the park's Open Field, the free community event invites children to dream big and build an ever-evolving fort city using recycled and natural materials, while families enjoy live music, nature play, and other hands-on activities. More than 160 youth and adults attended the FY26 event.



Kids Sing Along – Queen Bee Music Association offers this free weekly program that brings young children and their caregivers together through music, movement, and play. Held on the park's Performance Lawn and led by Teacher Sarah-Jane, it encourages creativity, connection, and joyful early learning in nature. The FY26 season welcomed 968 youth and adults.



Public Art



Life's a Picnic! – Created by local arts collective Abstract Picnic, Life's a Picnic! is a vibrant, mural that invites viewers to reconnect with the simple but radical acts of gathering, creating, and being present together. The piece features a checkerboard picnic blanket holding colorful representations of picnic items come to life, which also make a sly nod to famous works of art. The Railyard Art Project (RAP) exhibit is one of two funded in FY26 by the City of Santa Fe's Arts & Culture Commission, and runs through September of 2026.



In June, RAP joined with Abstract Picnic to celebrate the mural. More than 60 people came for a potluck-style picnic featuring free food and drinks, solar printing, hula hooping, and live music from Shaggy Peak Social Club.

Public Art

Flow of Wildlife – The myths contained within artist Jessi Cross’ maternal ancestral line – from Catholic saints to Greek myths to the cult of Isis – are increasingly central to her work, including Flow of Wildlife, a large-scale mural on exhibit in the park’s Children’s Play Area through October 2026. Created with original woodcut prints of local wildlife – including the roadrunner, bobcat, Cooper’s hawk, and cutthroat trout – Flow of Wildlife presents a new, multi-layered mythology involving local bodies of water, flora, fauna, and landscape. It is the second RAP project funded by the Arts & Culture Commission in FY26.



Cross installed Flow of Wildlife in April during a community celebration featuring Sand Play activities, and live music and a sing along by Queen Bee Music Association. More than 70 people attended.



Public Art



Trinities – RAP was honored to partner with SITE Santa Fe to present Ximena Garrido-Lecca's Trinities sculpture in the park's Waffle Garden. Constructed with sand, limestone, iron, copper, and other materials, the exhibit was part of SITE's 12th International, Once Within a Time, which ran through January of 2026.

Bluegrass & Bagels – In collaboration with the RPC, Greg Neal and Queen Bee Music host this free monthly jam session that brings musicians of all skill levels together to share GospelGrass, TradGrass, and NewGrass music in the park's Community Room. The program welcomed 159 participants in FY26.



Community Contributions



Earth Day – In late April, the RPC collaborated with more than 25 community partners - including Save Water Santa Fe, SF Botanical Garden, Mountain Kids!, Bike SF, and the Xerces Society - to present Encouraging the Ecotone, Earth Day in the Railyard Park. The free celebration welcomed more than 525 youth and adults for a day of environmental education, community connection, and family-friendly activities: Graze Days, live music, guided plant tours, and hands-on learning experiences led by local conservation and environmental organizations.



Community Contributions



Teachers Night Out – As an active member of Santa Fe's Community Educators Network, the RPC participates each fall in its Teachers Night Out. The event provides an opportunity to connect with teachers from across the region, share information about our field trip and children's programs, and collaborate with fellow informal educators to expand learning opportunities for local students.



Love Your Watershed Day – In early May, the RPC joined 39 other community organizations at the Santa Fe Watershed Association's Love Your Watershed Day, a celebration of community, connection, and stewardship. Our interactive "Worm Fun" activity introduced families to compost worms and the hidden life of healthy soils. The event welcomed more than 500 visitors.

Community Contributions



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

Nature-based play at Earth Care, Southwestern College & PMS – With support from the Brindle Foundation, the RPC continued its partnership with Earth Care, Southwestern College's Tierra Nueva Counseling Center (TNCC), and Presbyterian Medical Services (PMS) to expand access to nature-based play and early childhood education beyond the Railyard Park. Through southside Sand Play programs and classroom-based experiences for Early Head Start and Head Start students, the collaborative effort served 355 children and 116 early childhood educators in FY26.



For the fourth straight year, the RPC hosted PMS teachers for a nature play workshop in the park.