

APRIL 2024

GRT ANNUAL REPORT

A 15 year plan to grow the ABQ BioPark

*Rainbow Lorikeet in the new Australia area
at the ABQ BioPark Zoo*



Dear Albuquerque,

As we reflect on the past year, I'd like to thank Burqueños for the unwavering support you have shown for our beloved BioPark. Your continued dedication to this public treasure ensures that it remains a hub of education, conservation, and community engagement now and for generations to come.

The BioPark stands as a testament to our commitment to nature and wildlife conservation, providing visitors with a unique opportunity to connect with the natural world right here in our city. It is a place where families show their children the importance of stewardship and environmental responsibility, inspiring the next generation of conservationists.

As you'll see from this report, remarkable developments are taking place at the Botanic Garden. After years of the focus being on projects at the Zoo, the Botanic Garden is now stepping into the spotlight with a series of transformative initiatives set to enhance the visitor experience.

Among these projects are the expansion of Heritage Farm, which will now encompass 11 acres and feature a new electric train, offering families an immersive and educational journey through sustainability and New Mexico's multi-cultural, agricultural traditions. The event pavilion is undergoing renovations to include a larger stage while preserving the picturesque views of the pond and bosque.

Looking ahead, we anticipate Phase 2 of the Australia exhibit at the Zoo to begin construction later this year. This phase will transport visitors to the Outback, where they can walk among kangaroos, emus, and wallabies, immersing themselves in the diverse ecosystems of Australia. The introduction of an Australian Forest building will showcase a variety of birds, marsupials, and reptiles, further enriching the educational experience for visitors of all ages. Tasmanian devils and wombats will return to new, larger "flex" habitats, providing them with ample space to thrive!

None of these accomplishments would be possible without the support of our community and the voter-approved GRT tax. Your commitment to the BioPark ensures that it remains a beacon of conservation, education, and recreation for generations to come. Together, we are helping to fulfil the promise of Albuquerque as the best place for families, by increasing their access to, and appreciation for, our natural world.

Sincerely,



Tim Keller
Mayor, City of Albuquerque

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Dear Albuquerque,

The 2023 calendar year marked the beginning of incredible growth at the ABQ BioPark with the opening of the new Asia expansion. The Albuquerque voters who supported the Gross Receipts Tax (GRT) in 2016 have enabled our organization to explore every new project and find ways to expand, grow, and make it even more special.

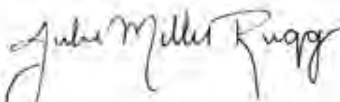
The New Mexico BioPark Society's mission is "Making the exceptional possible at the ABQ BioPark." You, along with our members and donors, have allowed us to return to our roots of adding the icing on the cake, if you will, for animals, plants, and guests alike.

Thanks to corporate and private donor support, we can stretch GRT funds even further by augmenting design and construction funding.

Donations have allowed us to help support progressive new enrichment activities in the orangutan and siamang flex spaces inside Asia, which has set a new standard of habitat and animal care at the BioPark.

Donations have also allowed us to fund a cultural strategy for insertion into the development of Australia, showcasing Aboriginal culture and heritage throughout the new space. This also includes the installation of Aboriginal murals and artifacts that provide an emotional connection to the land, people, plants and animals of Australia.

Thank you again for your vote of confidence in the GRT. We look forward to the completion of many upcoming projects and fulfilling our mission of making the BioPark an even better place for plants, animals and the community for years to come.



Julie Miller Rugg
Executive Director
New Mexico BioPark Society

NEW MEXICO
BIO PARK
SOCIETY

Thank You!



APRIL 2024 SUMMARY

We often use the word “transformative” when we talk about the impact of the BioPark Gross Receipts Tax (GRT). The transformation is immediately obvious in terms of new construction as any guest to Penguin Chill or Asia at the Zoo can tell you. And the progress of the BioPark’s major facelift is evident as crews wrap up work on the first phase of the Zoo’s Australia and the Botanic Garden’s Heritage Farm while also breaking ground on new projects, like the Garden’s event pavilion.

But the GRT is also transforming the way we care for animals. The “flex” habitats we pioneered in Asia provide so many benefits for the animals’ wellbeing that we’re building them into Australia’s second phase and the Catwalk renovation. The construction of the Veterinary Diagnostic Lab will allow the BioPark to conduct rapid disease detection onsite, helping not only BioPark elephants, but all elephants in nearby states. And the Mexican gray wolf refuge and the S.H.A.R.C. facility will transform the way the BioPark supports conservation for species in New Mexico and in oceans around the world.

Read on to learn more about the transformations made possible by the GRT in the last year and what to expect in 2024.



APRIL 2024 PROJECTS COMPLETED

Asia—\$33 million

This new area on 4.5 acres of previously undeveloped land at the Zoo provides dynamic, state-of-the-art homes for orangutans, siamangs, Malayan tigers, snow leopards and Steller's sea eagles.

Polar Bear Tundra Tunnel—\$90,000

A new tunnel connects the original polar bear pool with the former lion habitat, now known as the tundra. Kiska the polar bear can choose where to spend his time, whether it's rolling in the mud or dozing by the pool.

Veterinary Diagnostic Lab Building Construction—\$300,000

A cutting-edge, onsite DNA testing lab will provide early warning of an active infection of a common, but often deadly, elephant virus. The new lab is only the eighth such zoo lab in the nation. Additional operational funds will be provided by the New Mexico BioPark Society.

Aquarium Boat Dock—\$120,000

This ship has sailed! The Candy M, the shrimp boat docked at the Aquarium, has been removed to make way for a future interactive outdoor space for landlubbers and ocean explorers.

Australian Shores & Lorikeets—\$14 million

Two immersive free-flight habitats will allow guests to connect with Australian shorebirds, including little penguins—the world's smallest penguin species—plus colorful lorikeets from Australia's tropical forests.



*Arya, Malayan tiger,
Asia*



*Laughing Kookaburra,
Lorikeet exhibit*



APRIL 2024 PROJECTS IN PROGRESS

Heritage Farm Renovation—\$13 million

All 11 acres of the Heritage Farm at the Botanic Garden will be renovated to include new livestock barns, larger animal habitats, more orchards, outdoor classroom space and a new train. Expected opening Fall 2024.

Event Pavilion at Botanic Garden—\$1.3 million

From summer concerts to private parties, a new shaded stage will become the heart of the Festival Green. Expected opening summer 2024.

Mexican Gray Wolf Refuge—\$1.1 million

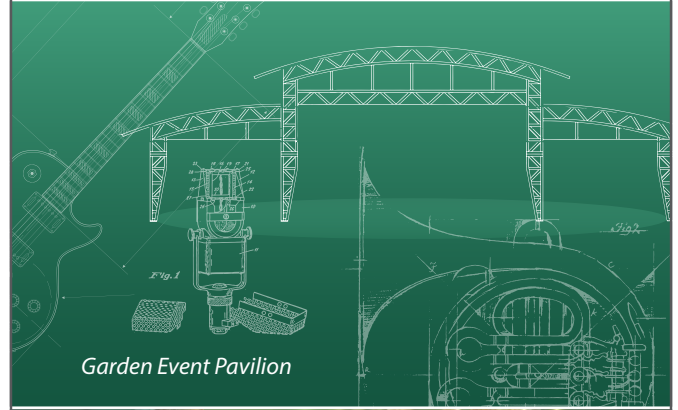
A large area behind the scenes at the Botanic Garden will give Mexican gray wolves private space for breeding, raising pups and establishing pack bonds.

Alligator Snapping Turtle Renovation—\$900,000

Renovations to this supersized turtle's habitat include a larger pool and a more immersive space for the turtle and guests.



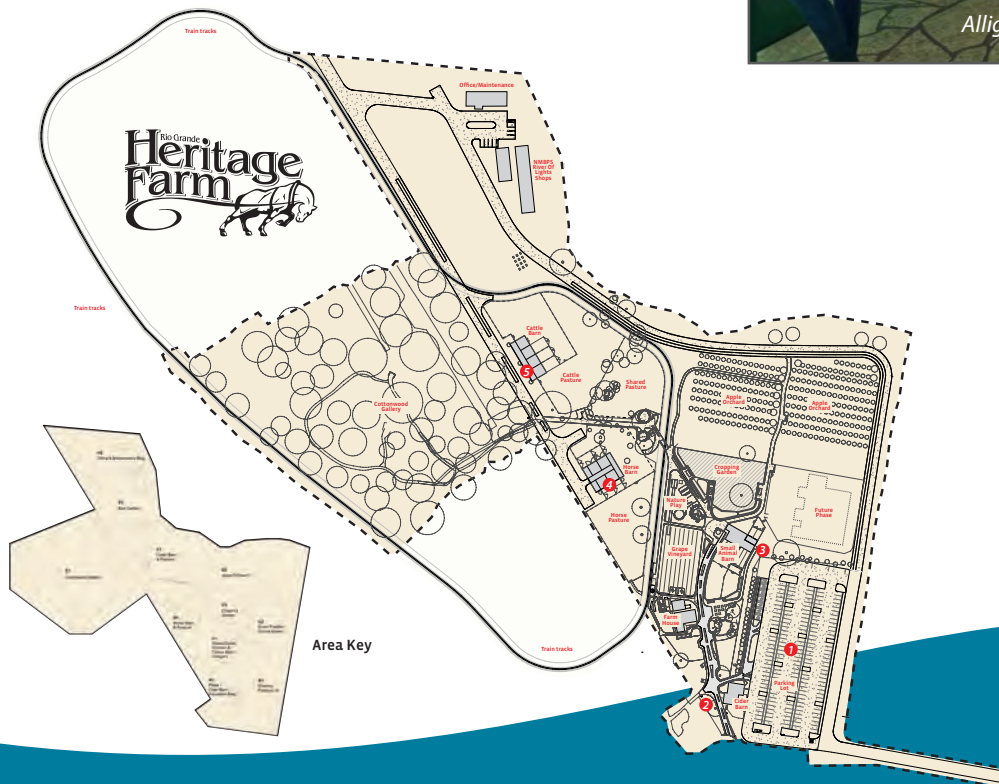
Mexican Gray Wolf Refuge



Garden Event Pavilion



Alligator Snapping Turtle



APRIL 2024

UPCOMING PROJECTS

S.H.A.R.C. at the Aquarium—\$15 million *(Science, Health and Aquatic Research Center)*

This new behind-the-scenes building at the Aquarium will support critical operations for aquatic animal care. Here, young fish will grow up, sick animals will be nursed back to health, rare corals will be raised, and more.

Catwalk Renovations—\$2 million

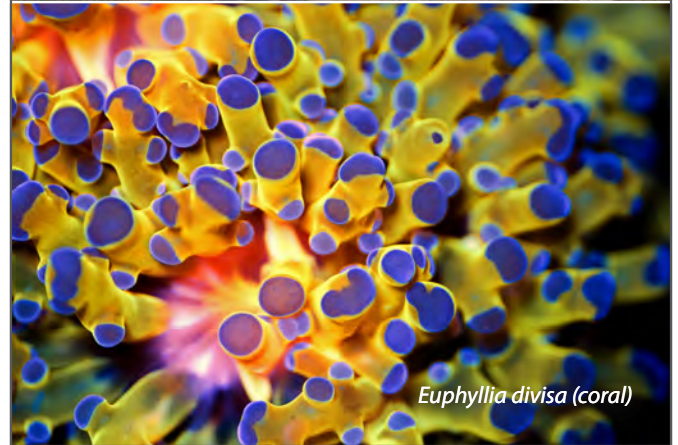
Modest renovations will create large “flex” habitats where cats and carnivores experience dynamic spaces with enriching opportunities. Expect to see a changing population of animals until the Catwalk is ultimately transformed to an entirely different animal habitat.

Australia Phase 2—\$11 million

Walk with wallabies and kangaroos in the new outback or watch as Tasmanian devils and wombats explore expansive new “flex” habitats. The stories of Australia’s aboriginal people are told through vivid murals and displays of artifacts.

Children’s Fantasy Garden—\$5 million

To stay ever youthful, the Children’s Fantasy Garden will be renovated to improve accessibility, safety and fun for young children and their families. The community will be invited to help reimagine this space.



APRIL 2024 FINANCIALS

	Projects Completed	Repairs and Renovations	Total Expended
FY17	\$2,854,482.57	\$537,061.29	\$3,391,543.86
FY18	\$11,123,961.83	\$1,103,250.16	\$12,227,211.99
FY19	\$4,552,990.44	\$996,147.03	\$5,549,137.47
FY20	\$7,023,136.18	\$3,762,832.05	\$10,785,968.23
FY21	\$6,459,052.23	\$1,196,106.30	\$7,655,158.53
FY22	\$20,439,417.19	\$1,582,071.94	\$22,021,489.13
FY23	\$28,212,577.69	\$2,896,960.55	\$31,109,538.24
FY24	\$12,860,620.45	\$3,843,681.87	\$16,704,302.32
Total expenses	\$65,313,660.89	\$13,021,150.64	\$78,334,811.53

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